



# Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

**LWN**

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS GROUP

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## ● COUNCIL DENY KINGS ROAD PROMISE

# Residents launch Crossrail2 protest

PROTESTING Chelsea residents are raising "a people's army" in a bid to battle plans for a Crossrail2 station in the Kings Road which they say will destroy the area forever.

The newly-formed Chelsea Residents Association is calling on all residents to rise up and fight the Mayor of London Boris Johnson and Kensington & Chelsea Royal Borough Council over their support for the Transport for London bid which residents claim will cause a miserable eight years of building hell and traffic chaos to the Kings Road.

The association is accusing the borough council of "renewing on their promise" to not allow a Kings Road Crossrail2 and it says the council is only interested in making money out of the hugely-unpopular massive development.

The council vehemently denies making any such promise.

The association is launching its 'No To Crossrail In Chelsea' campaign at a public meeting at Chelsea Town Hall this week.

The association says it is concerned that Chelsea residents do not realise how huge the proposed Crossrail2 station could be, nor how busy, nor how much it could obliterate the area.

"A Crossrail2 station in the Kings Road would destroy the Chelsea we know," said the association's leader, Dr Gordon Taylor.

"It would completely wreck its cherished special

● By LWN reporter  
**GEOFF BAKER**

character, it would take eight years to build, causing massive disruption, and none of the residents wants it."

The association says that Crossrail2 stations can be enormous in comparison to the Underground and that buildings on the Kings Road site would be legally-seized and torn down in order to construct the £1.5 billion station.

### 'Alien to Chelsea'

"The station would run from the Fire Station to Waitrose up Sydney Street to include the Chelsea Gardener and compulsorily-purchased buildings would be demolished," warns the protest group.

"Massive property development, which is so alien to Chelsea, would be required to help pay for the Crossrail2 station. Large new blocks of flats, offices and retail premises - equivalent to five Peter Jones - would

dominate the Kings Road. Modern rail stations include fast food outlets and retail. This would lead to a disruptive night-time economy with 24-hour take-aways which residents won't like and the council would be powerless to stop this happening."

Crossrail2 would mean trains running 24 hours a day into the heart of Chelsea.

"At peak times there would be 48 trains an hour, each able to carry 1,500 passengers," said Dr Taylor.

The residents association is warning that the building of a Crossrail2 in Chelsea could make the area look like a bomb site.

"If you want to know what it would be like, go and have a look at the Crossrail development in Soho Square - it's like The Blitz there", said Dr Taylor.

"These stations are huge, not for nothing do they call them cathedrals," said Dr Taylor.

"The platforms are 240 metres long, the twin tunnels are 20 feet in diameter and they would be digging down for 100 feet. Boring these tunnels and creating

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

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ROYAL BOROUGH'S  
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■ **DISRUPTIVE:** Crossrail2 will "completely wreck" the cherished special character of Chelsea, say protesters who have formed a new residents' association

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## Mayor's planning guidance has Londoners' wellbeing at heart

# Blueprint envisages a better life for all

**W**ITH London now home to more people than ever before, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson has issued detailed planning guidance to ensure the capital has the schools, hospitals, open spaces and places of worship it needs to flourish.

Aimed predominantly at planners and developers, the Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance builds on policies in the Mayor's London Plan that aim to tackle some of the city's biggest challenges regarding health, education, sport and faith.

This guidance aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of London's population, which has now increased to more than 8.6 million people, with the latest projections estimating that the city will be home to 11 million people by 2050.

Sir Edward Lister, deputy mayor for policy and planning, said: "London's incredible population boom is testament to the fact that this is the best big city on the planet.

"For that to continue, we need to make sure



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S  
OFFICE

that we have enough schools, GP surgeries, community venues, green spaces and places of worship and that they are situated in the right place."

The Mayor believes that people should be able to live and work in safe, healthy, supportive and inclusive neighbourhoods with which they are proud to identify.

To achieve this, the Supplementary Planning Guidance advocates places that are designed to be inclusive regardless of age

and argues that they best promote positive community involvement. The guidance envisages that these so-called 'lifetime neighbourhoods' incor-

porate facilities such as health, education, community, cultural, play, recreation, sports, faith and emergency facilities to reflect changing lifestyles and create places where people can live their whole lives.

**L**ONDON'S population growth, as well as economic factors and increasing standards of education, has seen a significant rise in demand for school places.

The school-age population in London grew by 107,000 in the 10 years between 2001 and 2011, making the pupil growth rate in London twice the national average.

The Mayor supports councils, communities and parents setting up academies and free schools to support this growth but is keen that local authorities continue to make provision for a full spectrum of schooling in London.

This guidance calls for existing schools to be expanded and new schools built to meet the needs of all Londoners.

As part of this planning, the Mayor is keen that schools are sustainable with adequate provision for food, the use of energy, waste dis-

posal and transport infrastructure around the school site.

London's over-65s population is expected to increase by 50 per cent to reach 1.4 million by 2031 and the over-90s population will see a three-fold increase.

The Mayor's guidance includes a shift away from hospital-based services towards care provided in community settings nearer to people's homes. The Mayor recommends a 'prevention rather than cure' approach, which includes leisure facilities and open spaces to help combat obesity and community health services that can offer support with food advice, diabetes, quitting smoking and substance abuse.

■ To view the Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance, you can visit the website [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

■ Social infrastructure is a component within the National Planning Policy Framework, The London Plan and various local plans. It is intended that this document provides guidance on how to implement policies within the London Plan and it does not introduce any new policy.



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# Borough binmen are the best in Britain



■ THE WINNERS: Michael Foy, Danny Davis, Konstantins Zinovjevs.

A ROYAL Borough waste recycling crew's efforts to go the extra mile to ensure residents get a top service has seen it named Collection Crew of the Year at the National Let's Recycle Awards.

The award recognised the dedication and high-level of service provided by the K7 collection crew. The judges said they looked for a commitment to providing a high level of service where it goes beyond the normal standard.

A council spokesman said: "Working in the Earl's Court area, with its many Victorian and Georgian townhouses now transformed into multi-occupancy flats with no bin storage areas,

provides many challenges for the K7 crew.

"Add to that the high turnover of residents and it's easy to see why some of the key messages about recycling and the right days to place rubbish out for collection are often either missed or ignored which can lead to waste being put in the wrong bags and spillages.

"The crew will often find waste is not bagged correctly, which means it has to clean up spillages and detritus left behind. All the collections it deals with are bagged waste, usually stored in old coal sheds in basements. These stores have low ceilings, confined space and poor visibility which all add to the task.

"Under the supervision of its team leader K7 sets out to tackle these issues head on. A combination of regular meetings to discuss problems on the round and a personal touch when it comes to dealing with complaints means the crew get to know as many residents as it can and can talk through issues soon after they arise.

"Last year K7 collected domestic waste and co-mingled recycling on nearly 500,000 occasions, and received very few complaints. K7's personal touch has seen it refine its round to serve the needs of one particular elderly lady with mobility issues and it's not unknown for residents to bring the team treats by way of cakes and hot drinks, which are always welcomed."

CLr Tim Ahern, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "Congratulations to the K7 crew. In such a densely populated borough as ours getting our waste collection to run smoothly and efficiently is no easy task and can throw up some real challenges.

"This crew's attention to detail and determination to do the best job it can clearly impressed the judges at the Let's Recycle Awards."

## Chelsea Crossrail2 campaign

### ■ FROM PAGE ONE

a station with four exits would lead to settlement damage to many buildings, as has happened on Crossrail1.

"Houses on or near the route and surface areas may well be blighted and be difficult to sell. The station construction would take about eight years. The Kings Road adjacent to the station site could be closed for two years, causing enormous traffic congestion and disruption.

The association is especially angry with Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, who they claim have gone back on an assurance that there would not be a Crossrail2 in the Kings Road.

In a leaflet that is being delivered to every home in Chelsea, the Association says: "Following a summer consultation in 2014, TfL proposed to build a Crossrail 2 station based on the Kings Road Fire Station site. The consultation was flawed and at a public meeting in June 2014 the majority of residents made their opposition to it clear.

"At the meeting the Leader of the Council assured residents that there would be no station on the Fire Station site and that a location in West Chelsea would be chosen.

"But three days before the end of the consultation period the council reneged on their promise and told TfL that they supported the Fire Station site – but they did not publicise this decision."

The borough council strongly denies this claim. A senior spokesman for the council said: "The leader of the council has never made any such promise and neither has the council as a whole, not least because it is not our promise to make; CR2 is after all a TfL scheme and we are just consultees.

"Some many months ago we did say that we were interested in whether a site in West Chelsea might be of more benefit and investigations were done.

"But having considered the results of those we concluded that the fire station was indeed the best available site and we wrote to every home and business in Chelsea setting out our reasons for that preference."

The Chelsea Residents Association has been formed to campaign against a Crossrail2 station in any part of Chelsea.

"We do not believe such a station reflects either the views or the needs of local residents. The Kings Road is already well served by public transport with good bus services and access to Sloane Square and South Kensington Underground stations. A Crossrail station would not connect with any other rail line. We don't need a Crossrail2 station in Chelsea," said Dr Taylor.

He added: "The only ones who want this station are the council, they can see that there is money to be made through development and big business rates. They just want to make money and they are being very insensitive to the feelings of residents. The council has not bothered to look into this properly."

The council strongly denies this, arguing that it has looked into Crossrail Chelsea very properly.

Its spokesman insisted: "Parts of Chelsea remain relatively poorly served by public transport and we think that CR2 would dramatically improve local transport



■ CROSSRAIL2: It will make Chelsea a better place to live, according to Borough Council Transport supremo Tim Coleridge

options, relieve local and city-wide congestion, ease pressure on the transport network, especially on the District Line, improve air quality, dramatically improve journey times and help our hard-pressed retail sector."

The association is leafleting Chelsea in order to stir up a huge public protest to pressure the Mayor's Office and the council to bow to residents' demands and block TfL's plans for the station.

They are asking residents to deluge the Mayor and the council with emails of protest.

### Mobilising people

The campaign has already caused concern at the Town Hall, where Planning tsar Councillor Tim Coleridge has complained about the residents' action.

"I've had an email from Councillor Coleridge saying that our leaflet is alarmist and will upset people," said Dr Taylor.

"But the point is that nobody in Chelsea wants a Crossrail station here, there is no need for it; in fact we need it like a hole in the head."

But Dr Taylor is confident that with council, GLA and mayoral elections coming before work on a Crossrail Chelsea could be completed, residents will win the war against their elected representatives.

"Oh yes, we will win," he said.

"We are mobilising a people's army. Boris will give way if we make enough fuss."

However, Councillor Coleridge denied that Crossrail Chelsea would be unpopular.

He said: "I very much hope that there will be a Crossrail in Chelsea and the majority of people who responded to consultations backed having a new station in Chelsea."

Councillor Coleridge said the Fire Station site had

been safeguarded for a new station since 1990 and that the only local alternative for a Crossrail was at Worlds End, which had been rejected by TfL because it would mean the demolition of 500 homes.

"The site preferred by TfL and the council is the Fire Station," he said.

"Dr Taylor is confused. Although the Fire Station site has been safeguarded it has not been decided exactly where on the site it would go, nor how much of the site will be needed. It is complete and utter nonsense that the entire site will be developed."

Councillor Coleridge said that building work on a Crossrail Chelsea would not start until 2028 and would be finished by 2032. He added that as the capital is expanding and is mainly expanding to the east, a modern and fast connection from Chelsea to work and businesses in the east was essential.

He said that Crossrail Chelsea would also do much to relieve overcrowding on the busy District line in the area and that local hospitals were "begging us for it" as it would mean ancillary workers living outside Chelsea could get to work more quickly and easily.

He added: "It will be slightly disruptive but it will be high quality and it will make Chelsea a better place to live.

"I am going to be meeting with Dr Taylor soon, but I don't want Chelsea to be fed things that are unfounded and wildly-exaggerated."

**Residents' letters of protest can be sent to [mayer@london.gov.uk](mailto:mayer@london.gov.uk) and [cllr.coleridge@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.coleridge@rbkc.gov.uk) and to Dr Taylor at [gwhytaylor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwhytaylor@yahoo.co.uk)**

## Children tune up for Notting Hill Carnival

YOUNG people aged four to 18 who want to play a musical part in this year's Notting Hill Carnival can sign up to be a member of the Kensington and Chelsea Schools Carnival Band.

Preparations get under way on Saturday, June 13 at Colville School in North Kensington, from 2pm to 4pm, and will run every week until Saturday, 18 July. The children made a big impression at last year's carnival and had the crowds dancing and admiring their eye-catching costumes.

The theme for this year's performance is 'Rumble in the Jungle' – so expect some real jungle beats and crazy costumes.

Colville School is also running a carnival arts holiday workshop from Monday, 20 to Friday, 24 July, between 10am and 3pm, for children and young people aged eight to 18. Activities will include making costumes and flags and also designing and customising T-shirts, as well as music and dance workshops. Parents of younger children are welcome to stay with their children.

Anyone can come along to band practice or the holiday workshop. Musical skills are not required.

Colville School is recognised as a high-achieving music specialist school so it is a great place to give performing a try.

Jagdeep Birdi, school head, said: "The Kensington and Chelsea Schools Carnival Band is great fun and I know the children who have taken part in the past have really enjoyed it."

For more, email [schoolscarnivalband@gmail.com](mailto:schoolscarnivalband@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/kcschoolscarnivalband](http://www.facebook.com/kcschoolscarnivalband)



# Boubacar is player of Cannes tournament

A TEAM of budding young footballers from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is celebrating after a brilliant performance at the international Cannes Football Tournament, with one of its players, Ashburnham School student Boubacar Stanley, being named footballer of the tournament.

The 11 youngsters, who were chosen by Epic CIC and coached by its Sports Team, came third overall in the annual tournament after storming to a 2-0 victory in a play-off match against FC Carros, thanks to goal scorers Neo Eccleston and Sonny Pitt.

## By LWN reporter

During the two-day tournament the team (pictured below) won each of its four group games before progressing onto the semi-finals where they drew 1-1 against Frejus St Raphael thanks to another great goal by Neo. Unfortunately a penalty shoot-out meant they narrowly missed out on a place in the final.

Mohammed Jama, Epic's Youth Sports Co-ordinator, said: "The team performed incredibly well in front of an international audience and we are extremely proud of them. Big congratulations go to Boubacar for being named footballer of the tournament, which is a fantastic achievement, as was the performance of the whole team, especially our fantastic goal scorers. They really

showed they have what it takes and worked together to achieve the best possible result. This was an amazing opportunity for all 11 players and not only did they immensely enjoy themselves, they can also take a lot from the experience."

### Twinning programme

The Royal Borough has been taking part in the elite European tournament for the past 15 years, in honour of its twinning programme with Cannes, and for the last three years has been sponsored by Cadogan Tate, without whose support it would not be possible.

Epic CIC, the UK's first staff led youth mutual, was formerly the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Youth Service before becoming an independent entity on 1 January 2014. Epic CIC delivers a comprehensive range of youth support services to

children and young people up to the age of 19 and 25 for young people with a lifelong learning difficulty and/or disability (LLDD). Their services are provided under four main categories: Epic Youth, Epic Ambition, Epic Sport and Epic Health.

Epic's mission is to inspire young people to achieve their potential and to make a positive difference to the communities in which it works.

Cadogan Tate has been involved in the removal business for over 35 years. They specialise in residential, business and the moving of fine art. The company is based in several cities and regions around the world including London, Paris, New York, Los Angeles and the Côte d'Azur.

For more information about Epic CIC, visit [www.epiccic.org.uk](http://www.epiccic.org.uk)



## NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown,  
Leader of the Royal Borough  
of Kensington and Chelsea

## Time to build houses – we must do our bit too

POST-WAR house building achieved its peak not under Clement Attlee, but Winston Churchill.

In fact housing was a very big issue in the 1951 election, with the Conservatives promising to build 300,000 homes a year, a target which some regarded as unachievable.

To deliver his manifesto promise, Churchill turned to none other than Harold Macmillan. Macmillan didn't really fancy the job of housing minister but as he made clear in his diaries, Churchill wasn't taking no for an answer.

"It will make or mar your career," he told him.

By 1953, the target was being met and Macmillan did indeed go on to bigger things, becoming Prime Minister in 1957.

We have a very different sort of housing crisis today. Ours is not the result of bombings or shameful slum conditions.

Our population has simply grown, more people are living on their own, and for many years we have simply not been building enough to keep up with those developments – and some of what we have built has gone to overseas investors rather than British home seekers.

So housing is now back on the agenda in a big way. There are national policies and initiatives taking shape that are going to help but the key challenge is to increase the amount of building and if that's to happen, then local authorities and housing associations will all need to muck in.

Here in Kensington and Chelsea the scarcity and thus the price of land makes home building especially difficult but we

are nonetheless determined to make a meaningful contribution.

As a country though we are still badly in the red, so we cannot expect large cheques from the Exchequer to help meet the costs.

We are therefore looking at sites already in our ownership that are either vacant or capable of accommodating more homes.

One such site is Barlby-Treverton. This week we announced the appointment of the award-winning btpw as architects for the scheme. We mean to build a magnificent new Barlby primary school. Alongside it we will also build a new school for children and young people with special educational needs.

At the same time we will be taking a look at part of the adjacent estate, which is built to low density. We think we can build more homes there while giving all the existing tenants a brand new home that meets every modern standard.

We are also exploring other schemes. For example, we are planning new homes on the old Edenham site in North Ken. And we are also looking at redeveloping the council offices at Pembroke Road to provide additional homes, giving the existing tenants who live above the offices a guarantee of a fine new home in the new development. We are also looking at a number of schemes tailored to the needs of older residents.

If all these schemes prove financially viable, and can get planning permission (both big ifs), then together they will provide many hundreds of new homes.

As Churchill told Macmillan back in the early 1950s, it's time "to build houses for the people."

## We want to hear from you...

It's not just the big stories that happen in London that we want to hear about. There's a brilliant community spirit in Central and West London. If you help to run a local organisation make sure your events are featured in our newspapers.

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To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email [theleader@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:theleader@rbkc.gov.uk)



# Pensioners' champion is the new Lord Mayor



**COUNCILLOR Christabel Flight is the new Lord Mayor of Westminster, succeeding Councillor Audrey Lewis.**

She was elected at last week's annual meeting of Westminster City Council.

Councillor Flight has served on Westminster City Council since 2006 as a member representing the Warwick Ward, declaring her intent to be 'older people's champion' from the start.

Her first act was organising a free tea dance at Grosvenor House on Park Lane for 1,000 Westminster residents aged 65 and over, which is now in its tenth year. From these beginnings, she grew more ambitious, persuading the London Coliseum to host free Music Hall evenings and eventually becoming the founder of Silver Sunday in 2012, a national day to help combat lone-

liness amongst older people.

It's now an annual fixture with 350 free events and activities taking place across the country last year alone including a Friendship Concert at the Royal Albert Hall and intergenerational cricket matches at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Councillor Flight's is a Founding Trustee of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, the chosen charity for her year in office. Established three years ago, the charity aims to continue the legacy of Sir Simon, former Leader of Westminster City Council, by delivering his vision of a caring city that offers opportunity for all. The charity aims to alleviate loneliness in older people and combat youth unemployment.

One of the Foundation's key projects is the establishment of The Sir Simon Milton Westmin-

ster University Technical College, a state-of-the-art school for 550 students aged 14 to 18-years-old in Westminster. The college will prepare them for a career in transport engineering and construction development and management.

Councillor Flight has said following her election: "I am delighted and honoured to be chosen as Lord Mayor to a city I have called my home for the past 18 years.

"As a resident, I feel passionately about Westminster and its people and see this as an opportunity not only to meet, listen and thank those who contribute to the lives of our local community, but also to address opportunities for younger and older people, which I hold dear to my heart".

# 'Crossrail cleansing' threat to Soho life

SOHO'S 6,000 residents of creatives and artists should start looking for new homes and places to work – the Crossrail Effect is driving up prices so fast that they are going to be forced out of the area.

New figures reveal that Soho rents have shot up by 8 per cent in the last year and are still climbing and by the time the massive new Tottenham Court Road station opens in three years' time property prices will have risen by almost 50 per cent since Crossrail was approved in 2008.

"Crossrail Cleansing" is spelling the end for the Bohemian community which has populated the square mile for hundreds of years as the promise of the super-fast rail link is luring to Soho wealthy bankers who will be just 15 minutes away from their offices in The City.

The future is looking so dire for traditional Soho locals that the fashion designer Vivienne Westwood (pictured) is now urging residents to rise up and fight with demonstrations against the developers.

"London is a disaster," said Dame Vivienne, writing in The Huffington Post.

"Everywhere they are pulling down the old buildings - grand houses along Piccadilly! - and building towers. There must be a floor completed every five minutes. There are cranes everywhere. Their red lights fill the sky at night.

"People hate it. Everyone hates it. Stop the destruction! We don't want this giant rubbish. All the houses where people lived happily, even in one room

● By LWN reporter  
**GEOFF BAKER**

amongst the thriving town, are going, going, gone. Clubs and dives, gone or moved out.

"Fight for every issue. Demonstrate. Build the public debate. Talk to people. The social media can help to build a wave of opposition to government crimes against humanity. Talk, talk, inform yourself. And most important show your face, demonstrate. Build the opposition."

Charles Peerless of Winkworth estate agency says the Crossrail Effect has driven up property prices around stations by 27 per cent since the new rail system was announced.

Property consultants CBRE predict that the Crossrail factor will add a further 20 per cent by the time the Tottenham Court Road station opens in 2018.

## Torn down

The Crossrail link will mean that financiers boarding the train at Tottenham Court Road will be just 13 minutes away from Canary Wharf and 25 minutes from Heathrow.

As old buildings are torn down and re-developed, the price of Soho property is becoming increasingly priced beyond the pocket of the area's creative population.

A 3-bedroom flat in Soho Square has just gone on the market at £5,950,000. In Hollen Street a 3-bed flat is for sale at £5,500,000. The Londis grocery store in Greek Street with three bedrooms above it is

for sale at £4,500,000, £3,985,000 is being asked for a two-bed flat in Great Windmill Street and in Dean Street a flat with just one bedroom is selling for £3,625,000.

"The Square Mile is becoming the Square Mint," said one lifelong Soho resident, "if you're not a millionaire, the future in Soho is looking very, very bleak.

Now questions are being asked over what plans Crossrail has for Soho Square. The Department for Transport recently won new "safeguarding" status for the roads around the square.

The updated Safeguarding Directions means the land required for Crossrail 2 in the future is protected from conflicting development. The Safeguarding Directions instruct local authorities to consult Transport

for London on planning applications for land within the safeguarded area. The safeguarding does not automatically allow for Crossrail2 to be constructed or for any property to be bought, but it does indicate that safeguarded areas may be developed for Crossrail use.

Residents are wondering whether the new safeguarding in Soho Square suggests that the roads may be closed and the area turned into a pedestrian precinct. Wealthy owners of properties in the square, including Sir Paul McCartney and Lord Lloyd Webber, would then have to walk to their offices.

Soho Square workers and residents are already dismayed that Crossrail has turned the square into a huge builders' depot. As with much of modern Soho and central London, the area echoes to the noise of construction work.

# Reward for foster parents who make a real difference

FOSTER carers who provide loving homes to children on behalf of Westminster City Council were rewarded for their outstanding foster care work at a celebratory event at the prestigious Kensington Roof Gardens.

One hundred and thirty foster carers who care for children from Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea were invited to the event which saw many carers awarded prizes for being a carer for over 25

years, or having looked after over 100 children.

Husband and wife, Francis and Irene Logan, pictured, have been foster carers for Westminster City Council since 1996 and believe that fostering is very rewarding for those that want to make a difference to society.

Francis, said: "We foster teenagers because society often writes them off but we believe that with the right care, many teenagers heading down the wrong path can be helped. We have established great relationships with many of our foster children and we are still in touch with them.

"We would recommend fostering to anyone who wants to help make a difference in society and is prepared to put in hard work and commitment."

Amina Fikri, also a carer for Westminster, has been fostering for the past fifteen years and looks after children with learning and physical disabilities said: "Many foster carers are reluctant to foster these children with special needs and disabilities because it requires a lot of hard work, but there is nothing more rewarding when a child thanks you for your help with a smile."

Westminster City Council shares its fostering service with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.





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# Flowers and faces at the most



■ SHELL MAGIC: A dinosaur on the Pollyfields stand



■ PERSONAL FAVOURITE: Part of the Morgan Stanley Healthy Cities show garden



■ MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: Members of the cast of STOMP



■ PERENNIAL BEAUTY: Joanna Lumley



■ HOPING FOR SUNSHINE: Twiggy and husband Leigh Lawson



■ ACTRESS TURNED PROPERTY EXPERT: Fiona Fullerton

**Words by Jackie Evans**  
**Photos by Richard Austin**

**M**Y granny was a gardener – flowers not vegetables – and on summer evenings at the back of her house there was a procession of lupins, delphiniums, hollyhocks and then agapanthus (or Aggie's pants as she called them) all reaching for the sky. The only flowers she dismissed as 'vulgar' were, rather unfairly, tulips and dahlias.

When I was younger gardening seemed a real chore. All that digging and mowing, weeding and then worrying about the slugs and the weather seemed too much like hard work when there were other, much more interesting things to do.

It came as something of a shock then, when in my 30s and with a house of my own I suddenly started looking at other people's gardens, coveting their plants and wondering what to do with my own plot.

Thus began a long term love affair and, as with all passions, it has blown hot and cold over the years but a visit to RHS Chelsea is definitely one of the high points.

There is something magical, almost other-worldly about stepping on to Main Avenue or wandering through the Great Pavilion.

The stands and the show gardens are beautiful and inspirational – some the result of more than a year of hard work in the planning and creating.

Despite the rain on Monday there was an expectant glow about the exhibitors as they waited for the Queen to arrive.

Prince Harry had been in early in the morning to check out his Sentebale – Hope in Vulnerability garden in which designer Matt Keightley sought to con-

vey the landscape of Lesotho, where the charity is based. Later in the day Harry brought his grandmother to see the garden, which was awarded silver-gilt by the judges.

Monday is also the day for the glitterati to see and be seen at Chelsea and there were a clutch of celebrities in the grounds of the Royal Hospital.

Once a model, always a model Joanna Lumley, Twiggy and Fiona Fullerton were happy to smile and pose for the cameras. Curious then that actress Olivia Coleman, perhaps better known as Detec-





# prestigious show of the year

tive Sergeant Ellie Miller from Broadchurch, on a press day ticket, turned her head and cried "no photos please!"

Although the plants were the stars of the show there was colour and life in the gardens all day long.

My own favourite show garden – The Morgan Stanley Healthy Cities featured the Monteverdi Choir Apprentices as studies have shown that choral singing has benefits for both physical and psychological wellbeing. At the end of the show the whole garden is to be transplanted to Poplar in East London to be at the centre of a new community project.

## Bring it alive

At the Homebase Urban Retreat Garden cast members of the stage show STOMP used plant pots, brooms and bin lids to dance on the garden and bring it alive.

More sedately at main sponsors M&G Investments The Retreat Garden, which gained a silver-gilt but should have won gold, synchronized swimmers in flowery bathing caps took to the water.

Dan Pearson won the judges 'best in show', after an 11-year break from Chelsea, with his Laurent Perrier Chatsworth Garden – a wild and inspired landscape but how difficult to judge something like that against the waterfalls, orchids and exotic land-

scape of The Hidden Beauty of Kranji, inspired by an area of Singapore, or the serene peacefulness of The Beauty of Islam, designed by Kamelia Bin Zaal.

Back in the Great Pavilion the perfumes, the colours and the artistry were intoxicating. Orchids in every colour and form created a stunning oriental display from Thailand, while girls in dresses made of flowers and foliage attracted visitors to Hilliers Nursery stand around the monument. Here the company secured their 70th gold medal, making them the most successful exhibitors in the history of the 102-year-old show.

Alice in Wonderland seemed to feature on several stands at Chelsea this year and there was a giant floral teapot and cups to catch the eye of visitors.

At Peter Beales Roses they launched a new bloom called Stamford's Sanctuary, a yellow climber, named for Stamford Military Hospital at Dunham Massey where 282 wounded 'Tommies' from the First World War trenches were cared for.

As the Queen entered RHS Chelsea the journalists reluctantly took their leave – taking with them a wealth of information and inspiration.

I even found some tulips and dahlias that my granny would have loved.



■ **ROSE FOR MY ROSE:** Launching two new blooms at Peter Beales stand in the Grand Pavilion



■ **HARRODS:** Perfume themed garden



■ **STUNNING:** The Beauty of Kranji



■ **BATHING BEAUTIES:** Braving the weather at the M&G Investments Retreat Garden



■ **A TOUCH OF THAILAND:** The Grand Pavilion stand that included thousands of orchids



■ **SERENE:** The Beauty of Islam



■ **SHOWSTOPPER:** Matthew Wilson's garden for the Royal Bank of Canada



LWN

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER &amp; PIMLICO

# Tickets needed again to see New Year fireworks

FOR the second year running, people wanting to watch the Mayor of London's New Year's Eve fireworks celebrations will need a ticket, following a successful trial in 2014.

To help those coming from far away, or needing to plan ahead, a limited number of tickets are being released on June 19. The bulk of tickets will be released in September, so if you miss out in June, don't worry, you will have another chance to get one.

A limited early release of tickets will be available to the public from midday on June 19 at £10 per person, which covers printing, infrastructure and other costs associated with ticketing. The main batch of tickets will be released in September.

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "We are planning another stunning display to celebrate New Year and showcase London around the world."

"As in 2014 you will need a ticket, as part of our efforts to ensure the future viability of the event, but even if you do not have one there will be plenty of fantastic celebrations going on across the capital to help non-tickethold-



■ SPECTACULAR: Last year's fireworks display in London

ers bring in 2016 with a bang."

Ticketing was brought in for the first time last year to help manage ever increasing crowd numbers heading into central London for the spectacular annual celebration. The aim was to reduce numbers to help ensure its long term sustainability as a safe and enjoyable event.

As well as being enjoyed by revellers in the viewing areas, the internationally acclaimed display is watched by millions on television and helps promote London around the world.

Anyone without a ticket will not be able to get into this year's event. Indications suggest that many people took notice of advice

last year to make alternative plans if they did not have a ticket.

Before ticketing was brought in, hundreds of thousands of people headed into central London, a large proportion of whom were unable to see the display at all, leaving them disappointed and with nowhere to go at midnight. Following its introduction, crowds were estimated at 350,000 - a significant reduction on the 2013 estimate of 500,000. There was also reduced pressure on the emergency services.

People wanting to find out more and sign up for updates about ticketing and this year's event should visit the London NYE website.

Writing for the **London Weekly News** every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

## Charlie Pipes Up!



## Tories must slash red tape to create jobs

If the Conservatives are serious about being a Government for business then they have to follow through on their promise to slash red tape.

Without doubt huge amounts of bureaucracy are one of the quickest ways to starve the life out of small businesses and, therefore, stick a massive obstacle in the way of the economy's upward trajectory.

The levels and complexity of red tape firms have to deal with makes business difficult and is a distraction to building our companies and creating jobs.

I'm convinced the Government will take the shears to the thorny hedgerows of red tape that engulfs UK business now that it is a single-party administration, especially in its negotiations with the EU.

During the Coalition's five year term 3,600 pieces of EU legislation were passed into law that affect British Business! If you need confirmation that common sense ain't that common in Brussels, then here's the proof!

As well as things like the EU data protection rules that cost UK companies an estimated £320 million a year and forcing manufacturers to conform to packaging and labelling regs even if they don't export to the EU, they've done even more crazy things with our food!

Apparently, the Brussels Bureaucrats changed the botanical name of the tomato inside the EU and restricted the use of rosemary extracts in stuffed pasta products!

Of course, that doesn't affect every business, but there's plenty that does. Things

like making my depot manager fill out half a dozen forms just to move a bit of rubbish about London or rules that restrict working hours, for example, make my blood boil.

So after shaking off the shackles of coalition, the Tories can get serious about untying the knots of red tape that surround British firms. Admittedly, Former Lib Dem Business Secretary Vince Cable did some good work with employment law red tape, but that was destroyed in a single pen stroke by Nick Clegg's parental leave law.

It's bad enough we have to put up with anti-business EU meddling, but to have to deal with something that was created on our doorstep that causes as much turbulence in its administration as in its practice is truly unbelievable.

### Clear and direct

Thankfully, new Business Secretary Sajid Javid has said the Government will cut at least £10 billion of red tape over the next five years to help British business grow. Mr Javid has been clear and direct with a

golden number to set his sights on. That's the attitude and transparency that businesses appreciate.

The Government has also listened to British business, including a report by a panel that included former Kingfisher Chief Executive Sir Ian Cheshire and Marc Bolland, CEO of the revitalised Marks & Spencer, which said the EU should cut or amend 30 pieces of red tape to hopefully ease the bureaucratic burden on UK firms.

Hopefully, the Government will also listen to SMEs and to help sort out the coal-face red tape that ties us up in knots and prevents businesses from achieving their true potential.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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**LWN****HEALTH MATTERS**

# NHS roadshows help hidden patient voices to get heard

Our patients tell us that what is really important to them is their face-to-face interactions with us. For the second year in a row, our summer series of roadshow events will be providing them with exactly that.

At our stalls, we act out different health scenarios to help local people think about how to use their NHS wisely, and how to choose the right care for their need. These fun events are a brilliant opportunity to reach out to those members of our community that we can sometimes struggle to connect with, such as people with mental health conditions, people who speak English as a second language, and people who are homeless. It's suitable for all the family, as we always have plenty on offer to entertain children and young people.

**Friday 29 May 5-10pm The Art of Wellness Festival World's End Place, SW10 0DR**

WORLDS End Night Market, come along to find out about local health information, sample some street food, listen to music and create your own street art.

**Sunday 31 May 12noon till 4pm There is More than A&E Fun Day, 1 Webb Close, Sutton Way, W10 5HJ**

DON'T make A&E your first port of call, find out about local health services and advice from health professionals. There will also be free food and drink, bouncy castle, crèche, puppet show, free massage and much more.

We know these roadshows are useful. Last year we had some fantastic conversations with local residents, and those conversations have played a big part in forming our priorities for 2015-16.

For example, residents told us that they wanted us to improve primary care. We now have extended hours across many GP practices, with many providing weekend openings. Improving access to primary care is one of our top priorities for the coming year. For example, we've set up children's primary care hubs, and we've

**By Kalwant Sahota**  
NHS West London Clinical  
Commissioning Group

created Primary Care Navigators to manage the care path for patients with complex primary care needs.

Another top priority of ours for the coming year is to continue our work in ensuring that mental health achieves parity with physical health. We'll be using the opportunity of these roadshows to tell patients how they can access psychological therapies and other mental health services, such as our Take Time to Talk service which we launched in June.

Louise Proctor, managing director of West London CCG, said: "We are engaging with patients across Queen's Park & Paddington, Harrow Road, and Westbourne Park as well as throughout the borough of Kensington & Chelsea on a regular basis.

"There are some groups of people we make contact with very easily, and there are others who it can be harder to reach. We want to make sure all patients have a fair chance to access the services their NHS provides.

"It is important that harder to reach demographics, such as people with mental health conditions, people who speak English as a second language, and people who are homeless, are able to get hold of vital information about the different care options available to them, so that they can make informed choices about what care is best for them and their families. Do they know where their nearest pharmacy is? Do they know that many GP surgeries are open on weekends? Do they know that they can walk into urgent care centres if the need care immediately, without it being an emergency that requires a trip to A&E?

"These roadshows are an innovative way of cutting out the middle man and communicating directly, face-to-face with our own patients and residents."

**For any further information please contact Kalwant Sahota, Public and Patient Engagement Officer at West London Clinical Commissioning Group on 020 3350 4356 or email on [wccg.team@inwl.nhs.uk](mailto:wccg.team@inwl.nhs.uk)**

## Improved healthcare for pregnant women across North West London

IMPROVEMENTS to maternity services in North West London will be introduced from July.

The changes will improve healthcare for women across North West London by increasing midwife-to-birth ratios, providing more senior consultant cover in maternity units and moving towards 24/7 consultant cover on the labour ward, and greater investment in home birth teams.

As part of the changes, Ealing Hospital's maternity unit will close and its services will be consolidated onto six hospital sites – all of which will have their facilities upgraded – across North West London as well as being delivered through more midwifery-led care in the community.

Most women from the borough of Ealing who choose to give birth at Hillingdon, West Middlesex, Northwick Park, Queen Charlotte's and St Mary's hospitals will still be able to have the majority of their antenatal and postnatal appointments at Ealing Hospital.

Paediatric services will remain unchanged at Ealing Hospital, although there will be improvements to these services over the next 12 months with the introduction of a new Paediatric Rapid Access Clinic and seven-day consultant cover.

The date for the transition of maternity services was

confirmed at a meeting of Ealing Clinical Commissioning Group's Governing Body on 20 May 2015.

Dr Mohini Parmar, Ealing GP and Chair of NHS Ealing Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "Midwives and clinicians are clear that these changes will help improve healthcare for women across North West London by providing more consultant-led care and more midwives in our local communities.

"What's more, many women from the borough of Ealing will still be able to have the majority of their antenatal and postnatal care at Ealing Hospital

"The clinical advice from independent bodies like the London Clinical Senate has always been to implement these changes as soon as possible in order to ensure we meet the changing – and improved – quality standards for maternity units in London.

"After much work, we now have the additional staffing, beds and facilities in our other hospitals in order to make this transition."

The changes were first proposed by healthcare professionals across North West London in 2013 as part of the "Shaping a Healthier Future" programme.

These plans were subject to public consultation and review by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), a group of national healthcare experts. The IRP supported the proposals and the Secretary of State subsequently committed the programme to proceeding.

## THE ART OF WELLNESS FESTIVAL

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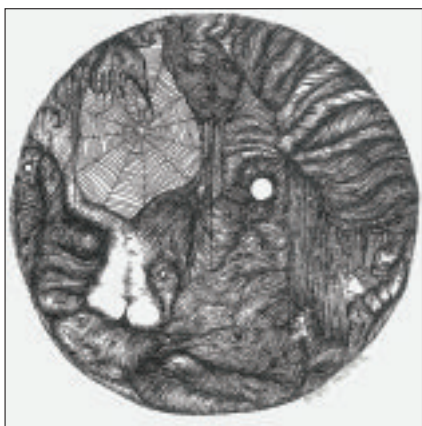
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# LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

## Portobello Road 150th anniversary



■ **FREE PRINT:** For Portobello & Golborne Market's 150-year anniversary celebration on May 30th (the 150th day of the year), Peter Foster, proprietor of Peter Foster Books situated on stall 161 on Saturdays, is offering his first 25 customers a free signed print of his own design (pictured here). In addition, customers purchasing more than one book will receive a 20% discount on the lower-priced title.



■ **VANITY FAIR:** This Victorian walnut vanity box with silver top bottle has two pop-out drawers which are released by pushing two buttons on the edge of the box. The piece is dated circa 1863. The silver bottles are hall marked London 1863. Situated in the heart of Notting Hill's famous Portobello Road antique market, Barham Antiques has one of the largest stocks of antique boxes, tea caddies, epergnes, glassware and accessories anywhere in the UK. Our opening hours at the shop are: Monday to Friday, 10.30am till 4.30pm, Saturday 9 till 5.



■ **ATTENTION!** Antiques and collectables expert Andy Morant will run a raffle with a difference at his stall, number five, on Saturday, May 30. Andy says: 'Purchase any toy soldiers up to £5 on the day and you will receive a raffle ticket. For every £5 you spend you will receive an extra ticket. At 3.15pm I will hold a raffle and the first two numbers drawn will each receive £50 worth of toy soldiers each, which the winners can choose themselves from the soldiers on the stall. The winning ticket holders have from 3.15pm to 3.30pm to claim their prize. If it is not claimed by then I will hold the raffle again at 3.30pm and continue the draw, for those in attendance, until it is won.' See Andy's website – [www.andymoranttoys.co.uk](http://www.andymoranttoys.co.uk) – to see a typical example of the soldiers he brings down to the market each week.

# Sale of the century

By Anne Swift

THERE is no doubt in my mind that you will easily find on Saturday, the 30th of May, the 150th day of the year and the official 150th birthday of the Portobello Market – 150 antiques from the year 1865.

You may think that this is a bold statement but it is based on the fact that the Portobello Road is not only one of the oldest markets in England but every Saturday it can also lay claim to the largest collection of specialist antique dealers in the United Kingdom.

You may discover many antique dealers in the Portobello antiques section who either sell or own pieces from 1865. They will show you items that were designed, invented, printed, handmade or otherwise produced in 1865 or which commemorate an event from that year. Just ask and a whole new world will open up for you.

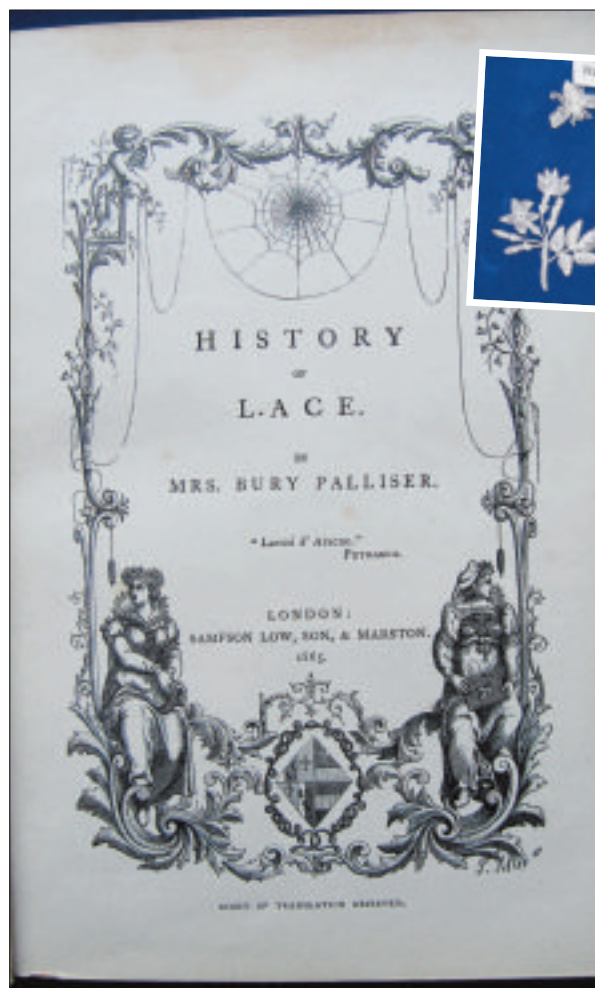
The second half of the 19th century in England is often referred to as the Victorian age because of the long reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). There are many beautiful objects from this period.

### Huge popularity

1865 was the year in which Lewis Carroll's novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was published, the Salvation Army was founded, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson became the first woman doctor in Britain, the lyrics of the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers* were written, the wallpaper named fruit or pomegranate was designed and manufactured by William Morris, the *History of Lace* by Bury Palliser had its first publication and the Honiton lace industry enjoyed huge popularity and was at its most productive.

Come and join our 150 years Portobello Party on Saturday, 30th of May. For further details follow @rbkcmarkets on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter or visit [www.shopportobello.co.uk](http://www.shopportobello.co.uk)

■ Anne and Phil Swift can be found at Stall 1, Antique Lace (Saturdays only), Portobello Road. Telephone 020 7 370 6589.



■ **HISTORY IN THE MAKING:** 1865 was a hugely significant year, not only for the birth of Portobello Market. The iconic *History of Lace* by Mrs Bury Palliser, pictured left, had its first publication and the Honiton lace industry enjoyed huge popularity and was at its most productive at this time. Reminders of this golden age in British history can be found on Portobello Market on Saturday, May 30.




Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Portobello & Golborne Market in Notting Hill  
For full details go to the website

[www.shopportobello.co.uk](http://www.shopportobello.co.uk)

Supported by The Portobello & Golborne Management Committee





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# UNDER THE WESTWAY

## Our aim is to create a sports village

**Angela McConville, Chief Executive, Westway Trust, looks forward to hearing the views of the residents and traders who live and work under The Westway.**

**O**UR reputation at Westway Trust for running sport facilities and delivering high quality sports development programmes is something we are rightly proud of. Every year we have more than 600,000 visits to our sports facilities and our sports offer is one of the best in London.

Tennis, climbing, football and fitness are enjoyed by thousands of people every week. At the forefront of our thinking today is how we plan, develop and invest in sports and fitness so that these will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

We cannot rest on our laurels. We have built a large and successful sports enterprise, but we can't expect that it will always thrive. We must continually develop, innovate and invest in sports if we are to continue to be attractive to our customers, and

ultimately deliver on our goals to get more people more active, and to support healthy active communities.

Last week we launched a survey, which has gone out to thousands of local people, including current sports centre users, community groups, member organisations and local schools.

Through this survey we want to hear the aspirations of local people for future sports and leisure facilities at Westway Trust. We aim to get at least 500 responses, but I hope it will be more. On top of this we will also be carrying out a hundred face-to-face interviews to gather views.

### New facilities

Westway Sports Centre is clearly a valuable and much-loved community asset. However parts of the facility are 35 years old, and even the newest part of the centre is already 15 years old. Westway Trust's 2030 plan sets out our intentions to maintain and develop our sports offer, as well as add new sports facilities.

We take seriously the responsibility to plan, manage and maintain these facilities into the future seriously. Our planning framework identifies the potential for the land around the sports centre to be devel-

oped for sport and leisure and we are now seeking your views.

Our 2030 vision is for a sports village, offering excellence in a diverse range of sports. We want to see more than a million visits each year to the sports village and we want to encourage participation in sport by groups who are typically underrepresented.

We are actively considering whether horse-riding will continue to have a role under the Westway and the survey we've launched forms an important part of an independent review into equestrianism we've recently commissioned. In February 2015, the Westway Trust Board decided that the current equestrian operation was not viable and that this could not continue into the future.

At the request of the stables' operator we granted a lease extension until the end of July to enable them to best manage their safe transition off the site. We have certainly not ruled out equestrianism at Westway, either in its current location or on another part of our sports estate. The future of equestrianism is part of what we're consulting on. We have set up a committee of both local people and equestrian experts to oversee this review. The review will help us understand the demands for and benefits of horse riding, the options for delivering

these, as well as the financial resources needed to make this happen. In the end, taking all of this information into account, eventually we at the Westway Trust will have to balance the needs and desires of the community with the land and resources needed to realise this.

When the North Kensington Amenity Trust was first established, the provision of sports and recreation facilities was a key part of the original charitable focus. Today, the Westway Trust proudly continues that work and is considered a very special provider of community focused sports and leisure.

As we look to the future, we want the Trust to play an even stronger role in the health and wellbeing of the local community. We want to be able to continue to provide world class, affordable sports and leisure. Designing this future is what we are busy planning. We need your views to help shape these plans. Do please help us raise our game by filling in our survey and sharing your ideas with us. You can find a link to the survey on our website [www.westway.org](http://www.westway.org).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Simple solution to Maxilla dilemma: swap land with the Westway Trust

■ MAY I just correct one fact on your *Westway News* page of May 21st. It is the council that is closing the Maxilla Children's Centre, not the Westway Trust.

The council blames government cuts and the end of Maxilla's lease for the closure, yet there is a simple solution that St. Helen's councillor Mo Bakhtiar and I proposed at the last council meeting.

The council won't redevelop Maxilla because the land is owned by Westway Trust. However, all that is needed is for the council to swap some of the land it owns under the motorway with Westway Trust to get ownership of the Maxilla site. Then it can use some of the £250 plus million it holds in reserves to redevelop Maxilla Children's Centre and keep its award winning outdoor gardens. We ran this proposal

past the Westway Trust, who were very interested in it.

Sadly, our proposal was rejected by the Conservative councillors and we were particularly saddened that Cllr Eve Allison, the Tory councillor in St Helen's ward, made her maiden speech in support of Maxilla's closure. With the new government's promise to increase child care from 15 to 30 hours per week, Kensington and Chelsea will not have enough places to meet this promise.

At the moment they are scouring North Kensington for alternative venues, none of which come close to matching the excellent facilities provided at Maxilla.

**Councillor  
Judith Blakeman**

■ AFTER the election, what now for child poverty? The new government has a mountain to climb. Currently, 3.7 million children live in poverty in the UK and the number looks set to rise steeply again.

Poverty has a huge impact on the life chances of children and young people. Starting from the cradle onwards, poorer children can expect to typically lag up to 15 months behind their richer peers in their vocabulary.

Poorer children attain fewer good GCSEs and are more likely to be unemployed on leaving education. Once unemployed they face permanent 'wage scarring', earning less than their peers later in life.

The recent recession, followed closely by a rise in the cost of living, hit the poorest particularly hard. Meanwhile young people experienced double the unemployment rate of other workers.

Worryingly, the Conservatives have committed to cutting £12bn of the welfare bill. It's unclear exactly where the money will come from, but they have already pledged to restrict housing and out-of-work benefits for young people.

There are some crucial steps the new Government can take to improve the poorest children's life chances. Firstly, they should guarantee that welfare cuts will not fall on the most vulnerable – starting with a complete review of the financially punishing sanctions system.

The Government must make sure every child has the same life chances by protecting Children's Centre funding, increasing support for disadvantaged three and four-year-olds, and assisting poor pupils through schemes like the Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

Marginalised school-leavers too need intensive support and training to help them succeed in the work place.

The main political parties have a legal duty to eradicate child poverty by 2020. It is imperative that the UK looks after families who fall into crisis, by maintaining a benefits system that will nurture the children most in need of it.

**Javed Khan  
Chief Executive, Barnardo's**



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As several of the Prince of Wales' ideas become government policy ...

# CHARLES WAS RIGHT!

By Geoff Baker

PRINCE Charles is to have the last laugh on "sticky-beaks" who demanded publication of his private letters to Labour ministers – the new Conservative Government is to take action on many of his concerns and campaigns and is to make them official policy.

The Prince, who was forced by the courts to have his personal mail exposed following a 10-year campaign by The Guardian newspaper, is to be given the full backing of the Government in The Queen's Speech.

Left wingers who expected the letters to contain any great seditions of state were left red-faced and disappointed when the private mail revealed only the caring prince's concerns on a wide variety of subjects – including farming, endangered species, countryside conservation and sustainable fishing.

The fact that the Charles's commonsense concerns are shared by the vast majority of ordinary British people did not deter The Guardian from pressing through with its "prince hunt". The newspaper claimed that the royal family "should operate to the same degrees of transparency as anyone else trying to make their influence felt in public life".

But now Prince Charles's influence IS to be felt – in a slap-down to Charles's critics the Prime Minister is to make official Government policy of

many of his private suggestions to politicians.

It has taken Westminster a decade to implement the Prince of Wales's ideas, but as his son Prince Harry pertinently said last week, "Whatever he says he is normally right and about ten years ahead of when the problems actually happen."

The Government's backing for at least six of Charles's ideas will be revealed when The Queen's Speech is read this week.

◆ **Prince Win 1** – Charles wrote long letters to Tony Blair about safeguarding British agriculture,

raising the plight of hill farmers, beef producers and the domination of supermarkets.

In its outline of new policy the Government says: "We will set out a long-term vision for the future of British farming, working with industry to develop a 25 year plan to grow more, buy more and sell more British food. We will also help consumers to buy British by pushing for country of origin labelling in Europe, particularly for dairy products, following on from our success with beef, lamb, pork and poultry. And we will cham-

pion our new Groceries Code Adjudicator, so farmers receive a fair deal from the supermarkets."

◆ **Prince Win 2** – Charles wrote to ministers expressing concern about sealife conservation and protecting the British fishing industry.

The Government says: "Over the next five years, we will put in place stronger protections for our natural landscapes, establish a new Blue Belt to safeguard precious marine habitats. We will create a Blue Belt around the UK's 14 Overseas Territories, and, off our own coasts, we will complete the network of Marine Conservation Zones to create a UK Blue Belt of protected sites.

## Edible fish

"We will defend our hard-won Common Fisheries Policy reforms, which include ending the scandalous practice of discarding perfectly edible fish and reforming the quota system so that all at-risk species, including cod, plaice, haddock and seabass, will be fished sustainably by the end of the next Parliament. We will continue to devolve the management of North Sea fisheries to local communities, and rebalance the UK's inland water quotas to smaller, specific locally-based fishing communities."

◆ **Prince Win 3** – Prince Charles has lobbied for better management and conservation of the countryside; the importance of tree-planting, cleaning

TURN to page 14



■ PRINCE Charles attending Chelsea Flower Show this week Photo by Ray Tang/REX Shutterstock

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# ROYAL LONDON

## Prince Charles' ideas become government policy



■ **PRINCE Charles** made history this week during a visit to Ireland by shaking hands with Irish Republican leader Gerry Adams

### FROM page 13

up rivers and care for Britain's essential bee population.

The Government says: "Over the next five years, we will put in place stronger protections for our natural landscapes. We will spend £3 billion from the Common Agricultural Policy to enhance England's countryside over the next five years, enabling us, among other things, to clean up our rivers and lakes, protect our stonewalls and hedges, and help our bees to thrive".

◆ **Prince Win 4** – Prince Charles has campaigned for tougher action on wildlife conservation and against ivory poachers and the trade of skins of endangered species.

The Government says: "We will continue to lead the world in stopping the poaching that kills thousands of rhinos, elephants and tigers each year. We will oppose any resumption of commercial whaling, and seek further measures at the EU and internationally to end shark-finning."

#### Tuna conservation

"We will promote effective worldwide measures for tuna conservation, press for a total ban on ivory sales, and support the Indian Government in its efforts to protect the Asian elephant. We will press for full 'endangered species' status for polar bears and a ban on the international trade in polar bear skins, as well as for greater attention to be paid to the impact of climate change on wildlife and habitats in Polar Regions in the Arctic Council and other international flora."

◆ **Prince Win 5** – Prince Charles wrote to the politicians arguing that British Servicemen needed to be better equipped.

The Government says: "We will maintain a balanced defence budget and give our Armed Forces the equipment they need. We are meeting NATO's two targets: that each country should spend two per cent of its gross national income on defence, and of that spending 20 per cent should go on

major equipment. We have made commitments for the equipment plan to be funded at one per cent above inflation for the next Parliament. We plan to invest at least £160 billion in new military equipment over the next decade."

◆ **Prince Win 6** – Prince Charles launched the Step Up To Serve charity, aimed at encouraging young people to strengthen their community by volunteering to help others.

The Government says: "We will support the Prince of Wales' Step Up To Serve initiative, encouraging young people to serve in their community. And we will make volunteering for three days a year a workplace entitlement for people working in large companies and the public sector. People could, for example, volunteer for a local charity or serve as a school governor."

Besides making it official Government policy Charles's Step Up To Serve has also been given the personal backing of Prime Minister David Cameron, who said: "This campaign is above party politics, it's about believing in our young people and backing them to do the right thing. We want more young people to have the opportunity to serve others and reap the benefits that this brings."

The Government's official endorsement of many of Prince Charles's private views has left his critics with egg on their faces and indicates that many Conservative politicians are happy to be guided by his pioneering and perceptive mind.

One Conservative insider said: "The Prince of Wales has repeatedly shown great vision in matters of conservation and care and his is a voice that we should listen to."

"It was outrageous that this chap who clearly has deep concerns and wise solutions for how to better Britain was forced by a bunch of sticky-beaks to have his private letters read in public, but it is a fitting justice that many of his ideas are now to be instituted as part of the new Government's programme."

## WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

### ● Tuesday, May 26th

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron of London Youth (the Federation of London Youth Clubs), will visit The Dome, Weedington Road NW5 and Wac Arts, Hampstead Town Hall Centre, Haverstock Hill NW3.

**The Princess Royal**, as President of the Animal Health Trust, will chair the Council of Management Meeting at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street W1.

**The Princess Royal**, as President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, will attend a Reception at Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge.

**The Princess Royal**, as Patron of Catch22, will attend a staff conference at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore SW7.

### ● Wednesday, May 27th

**The Queen**, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will open Parliament.

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Colonel in Chief of the Intelligence Corps, will attend the 75th Anniversary Dinner at Painters' Hall.

**The Prince of Wales**, as Patron of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, will attend a meeting on finance and sustainability at the London Business School, Sussex Place, Regents Park.

**The Princess Royal**, as Master of the Corporation of Trinity House, will attend the Younger Brethren's Dinner, Trinity House, Trinity Square EC3.

**Princess Alexandra**, as Royal Patron, will attend the Oxford Philomusica Trust Concert and Reception at Buckingham Palace.

### ● Thursday, May 28th

**The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will give

a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

**The Princess Royal**, as Master of The Corporation of Trinity House, will attend the Trinitytide Anniversary, Annual Court Meeting and Lunch, Trinity House, Tower Hill, EC3.

**The Princess Royal**, as Patron of Voluntary Service Overseas, will attend a Million Hours Fund Dinner at the Caledonian Club, Halkin Street SW1.

**The Duke of Kent** will attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

May 29th

**The Princess Royal** will attend the Naming and Commissioning Ceremony of the Sea Cadets Flagship at West India Dock E14.

**The Duke of Kent**, as President, will attend The Royal Institution of Great Britain Friday Evening Discourse, Albemarle Street W1.

### ● Monday, June 1st

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Admiral and Member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, will attend the Spring Dinner at St. James's Palace.

**The Earl of Wessex**, as Honorary Member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, will attend a dinner at St. James's Palace.

June 2nd

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, will attend receptions at St. James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

**The Earl of Wessex**, as Patron of The National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

**The Countess of Wessex** will attend the National Federation of Women's Institutes Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

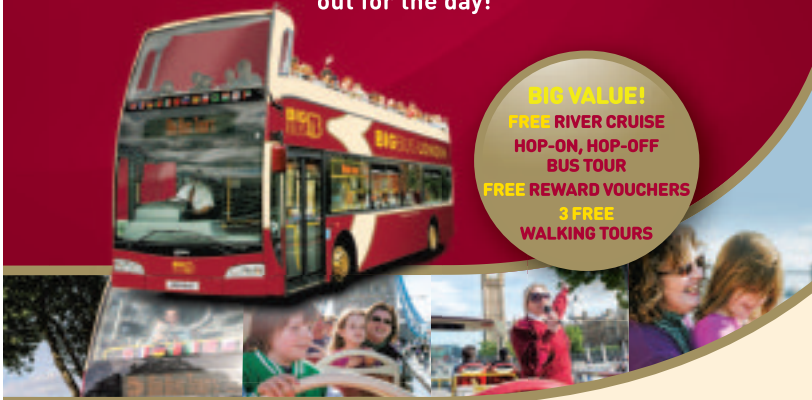
**The Duke of Gloucester**, as Patron of Royal Academy Schools, will attend the Royal Academy of Arts' Annual Dinner at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1.

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# ROYAL LONDON

# RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015

# Prince Harry shows the Queen around the Sentebale show garden at Chelsea



**H**ER Majesty the Queen congratulated her grandson Prince Harry at Chelsea Flower Show this week for his work with the Sentebale Charity.

The Prince together with Prince Seeiso of Lesotho founded the charity to support hundreds of children in the African country left vulnerable or orphaned by poverty and Aids.

A garden entitled Hope in Vulnerability, designed by Matt Keightley, to draw attention to the charity won a silver-gilt medal at the RHS flower show.

Prince Harry, who had just returned from a visit to New Zealand, made a visit to the show early on Monday morning to get a first glimpse of the garden and later in the day accompanied The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, the Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Anne and Prince Edward on an official visit.

The garden represents the experience children living with HIV will go through when they attend Sentebale's camp at the new Mamohato Children's Centre, providing a safe place for them to access psychosocial support needed to lead healthy lives.

Speaking to BBC news Prince Harry said the garden was everything he could have wished for and "exactly how I imagined it when we sat down all those months ago to begin the planning."

by Jackie Evans

Maidenhead-based Rosebank Landscaping, said: "I am very honoured to have won the silver-gilt for Sentebale, which represents the amazing work they do in Lesotho."

"Sentebale improves lives for children affected by HIV/AIDS and I would like to thank Prince Harry for trusting me to design this garden."

"I would also like to thank our garden sponsor, the David Brownlow Charitable Foundation without whom none of this would have been possible."

Two other young royals also put in an appearance at the flower show. Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall, son and daughter of the Princess Anne, visited the John Deere stand where Zara was presented with a large gift in a box, which she declined to open in front of the assembled photographers, but she was sporting enough to pose sitting on a tractor.



**ZARA Tindall gets to grips with a small tractor at Chelsea Flower Show**  
Photos by RICHARD AUSTIN



**PRINCE Harry welcomes his grandmother HM The Queen to the Sentebale Hope in Vulnerability garden, above and right, at RHS Chelsea**

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## LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

## Self-taught master of mirth

**In the latest in an occasional series, the London Weekly News takes a look at the lives and work of some great London names. This week we chart the rise to comedy fame of the son of Parsons Green plasterer**

by Geoff Baker

IT'S a funny thing, comedy; it's not easy to decide who is best at it. Unlike, say, athletics, there's little objectivity to it.

Whereas with running, jumping, throwing, the greats can be simply calibrated according to who did it fastest, highest or furthest, but laughter's not like that. With comedy, like with football or rock music, greatness has a lot to do with who is your personal favourite.

Take Paul Merton. This year marks the 25th anniversary of "Have I Got News For You", the BBC show which has established Merton as one of the funniest men in Britain. And yet if you slog through many of the online lists of 'Top 10' or 'Best 20' comedians that flood the Net, Merton's name does not appear much.

Take the Ranker site, which boasts a list of the "20 Funniest Brits of All Time". Rowan Atkinson heads the laughter league there, with Hugh Laurie, Bill Bailey and Lee Mack getting honourable listings. But Merton doesn't get a mention. Which is a joke.

The same glaring omission is found on the TopTens.com site, where Russell Howard is listed as No 1 in a chart compiled, apparently, on the votes of more than 3,000 punters. Again, that's simply not true; Russell Howard is not the funniest man in Britain, let alone – as one of his less-than-literate fans claims – "Russell [sic] is fantastic he is no 1 hands down".

And the same is the case at The Student Room, an online compendium of what the great minds of tomorrow find hilarious. According to the students' guide to the 10 best comedians, it's Iz-zard, Tommy Cooper, Al Murray, Jack Dee, Peter Kay, Michael McIntyre, Lenny Henry, Billy Connolly, Lee Mack and David Mitchell that cut it, but no Merton. Which rather says a lot for a website named after a place more usually associated with the reek of cannabis and digestive biscuits.

But then Paul Merton is from a different, long-gone world; a London of rationing and conkers, where you always kept a piece of string in your pocket.

He was born Paul Martin, the son of a Parsons Green plasterer, in 1957, and brought up with his parents and grandfather.

"Our council flat in Robert Owen House was a cosy affair and beautifully situated in grounds set back from the Fulham Palace Road. The flats were built in the mid-1930s to accommodate those made homeless by the slum clearance programme around the environs of Wandsworth Bridge," he writes in his autobiography *Only When I Laugh*.

"Grandad's club foot guaranteed us a ground floor flat because, although the flats ran to four floors, there were no lifts. We had a living room, a small kitchen, a short hallway with a couple of bedrooms off it, and a toilet."

He attended Wimbledon College, a Jesuit-run secondary school that was formerly a grammar school and had just become a comprehensive, in a stream for boys who had failed the eleven plus and he received A-levels in English and history. After leaving school, Merton worked at the Tooting employment office as a clerical officer for seven years.

Although school studies had not prepared him for showbusiness, the expe-



rience of being at school did and as a young teenager he made a life-changing discovery.

"When I was about 12 or 13 I realised that being funny wasn't about remembering jokes, it was about creating them," he said.

For instance: "During the war my Dad said you didn't have to worry about the Blitz as the only bomb that would get you, he reckoned, was the one that had your name on it. This was reassuring to me, but it didn't half worry our neighbours, Mr and Mrs Doodlebug."

Now that's funny and it is that sort of dead-pan, laconic and observational wit that has made Merton one of the greats.

But his success was hard won. Like great musicians, great comedians are rarely, if ever, born; you need to work at it, practice makes greatness and while

# Paul Merton



■ THERE WAS THIS DUCK... Paul Merton seeks his next laugh.

he endured his years in the civil service at night Merton would study classic comedy, viewing Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin films again and again to see how to they constructed the joke, how the timing made it work.

"I read every book about Buster Keaton and Chaplin to see how they worked – it's all about dedication, tunnel vision, pursuit of perfection, getting the gag right," he said.

In essence, he taught himself into the job he had always wanted since he

first saw clowns at the circus as a six-year-old but had never declared on leaving school.

"Well, you don't, do you," he said. "I mean, my careers master was unlikely to say 'OK, fine, I'll get you a six-week booking with Petula Clark and Harry Worth at the Birmingham Hippodrome.'"

It took him seven years of night study in his Streatham bed-sit to develop an act and in April 1982 he found the courage to try himself out at Soho's Comedy Store. With his now-trademark straight face he delivered a gag he had written about a policeman giving evidence in court after taking LSD.

"Thirty five minutes later I saw Con-

stable Parish approach me disguised as a fortnight's holiday in Benidorm..."

The notoriously-picky Comedy Store regulars, more than happy to throw insults and missiles at those they thought unfunny, went mad for Merton and a star was born.

"It was the most fantastic moment of my life, this ambition I'd always had, I'd done it and the audience had gone wild. I walked all the way home from Soho to Streatham on a cloud of euphoria at four in the morning."

From then it was just a short step onto the comedy circuit and never-lessening appreciation for gags like: "The first Underground station ever opened was Baker Street in 1906. What was the point of that? Where would you go?"

And: "My hair's got a life of its own. Last week I found it in the kitchen, making an omelette."

And: "I used to go to this terribly rough pub. I'll tell you how rough it was; every night they used to have a quiz night and the first question was always 'Who are you looking at?'"

The Channel 4 show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Soon followed, as did *Radio 4's Just A Minute*, *Room 101* and of course, *Have I Got News For You*, which he has anchored with *Private Eye* chief Ian Hislop for a quarter of a century.

"Paul is quite simply the funniest man on British television," says Hislop.

Denise O'Donoghue, the show's producer, agrees. As did the late geniuses Spike Milligan and Robin Williams.

"He's got an amazing television personality, very endearing," says O'Donoghue. "He doesn't have the right-on-ness that gets on the nerves."

"My instinct is to make things funny," says Merton, who used his wit wonderfully to deflect scandal when Angus Deayton, the some-would-say smug chairman of *Have I Got News For You*, was exposed for holding secret parties that featured prostitutes and cocaine and accused his unsupportive co-stars of stabbing him in the back.

"No, we stabbed him in the front," said Merton, who had upset the disgraced chairman by saying "his name is Angus, the g is silent."

He lives quietly with his wife and fellow comedian Suki Webster, happy that unlike many other TV stars, "I have never sold my story, done *Hello!* magazine, any of that stuff. I'm not guilty of exploiting my private life for cash and then saying, 'Oh, I don't want to talk about my private life.' I've never crossed that line" and happy that when it comes to proper polls of his worth, the Great Londoner who is Paul Merton is high up there.

For in a 2007 public poll for *The Guardian* Merton was voted alongside Oscar Wilde, Spike Milligan, Noël Coward and Winston Churchill as one of the ten greatest wits of all time and *The Comedian's Comedian*, a 2005 Channel 4 poll of fellow comedians, saw him voted among the top twenty greatest international comedians in history. And with 11 BAFTA nominations, one win, and five British Comedy Awards to his name, he's done alright for a man who wonders, "am I the only one who's always tempted to light the wick on the top of a bet?"

Appropriately for such a Great Londoner and national genius, he appears next week at the National Theatre on the South Bank, in conversation with fellow Comedy Store player Lee Simpson, talking about his life and afterwards doing a book-signing of his autobiography. Tickets are only £4 for a show guaranteed to be among the funniest of the year.

■ Paul Merton at The Lyttelton Theatre, June 3rd, 6pm. See the website [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)



■ DOUBLED UP: Paul Merton with *Have I Got News For You* adversary Ian Hislop.



# Portobello & Golborne Market official 150 year anniversary celebration. **Saturday 30 May 2015.** **Exclusive one-day-only shopping offers at over 30 market stalls.**

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| Allen Antiques                  | 4                               | Gift with purchase while stock lasts                                    |
| Once Upon a Time                | 5                               | Gift with purchase; Raffle at 3.15                                      |
| Portobello Road Sports          | 11                              | 10% discount  |
| Sisters Antiques                | 12                              | 15% discount  |
| Hilary's vintage & collectables | 21                              | 10% discount  |
| Oscar's Antiques                | 28                              | Discount  |
| Hilary Proctor                  | 30                              | Gift with purchase  |
| Popina                          | 72                              | Multi-buy offer; discount on purchases over £20                         |
| Jamon Jamon paella              | 89                              | Gift with purchase while stock lasts                                    |
| Bella Burgers                   | 96                              | Discount or gift with purchase for 1st 50 customers                     |
| Mind Box                        | 120                             | Specially priced items  |
| Tim's souvenir stall            | 125                             | Gift with purchase while stock lasts                                    |
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| Makeup stall                    | 126                             | Discount on purchases over £5   |
| Mr Alkozai's hat stall          | 130                             | Multi-buy offer   |
| Big Red Tent Records            | 132                             | Discount with multi-item purchase                                       |
| Vasili's clothing stall         | 134                             | Discount with multi-item purchase                                       |
| Agnes' jewellery stall          | 139                             | 10% discount  |
| Tim's art stall                 | 141                             | Multi-buy offer   |
| Modern & Vintage Hosiery        | 142                             | Multi-buy offers  |
| Peter Foster Books              | 161                             | Gift with purchase while stock lasts; discount with multi-item purchase |
| Sally Handmade                  | 168                             | 10% discount  |
| Portobello on Parade            | Acklam Road                     | Specially priced items  |
| Wooden crafts                   | Arts & Crafts square            | 30% discount  |
| Dustbin and Bones               | Casual (look for sign on stall) | Gift with purchase while stock lasts                                    |
| Discount fashion stall          | Casual (look for sign on stall) | 10% discount on purchases of £30 or more                                |
| Cascada art & textiles          | Casual (look for sign on stall) | 10% discount  |
| Angelcraft                      | Casual (look for sign on stall) | Multi-buy offer   |
| 3D Pop-Up Cards                 | Casual (look for sign on stall) | Multi-buy offer   |
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## Light your fire with barbecue reds

**T**HE promised 'three-month heatwave' may have sizzled out mere moments after its announcement, but as spring marches on into summer, barbecues are definitely on the horizon (whatever the weather).

And although this means you'll want a wine rack with some drops of white (try Robert Mondavi Private Selection Chardonnay, half price at £6.49, Ocado), some sparkling (the delicious Camel Valley Pinot Noir Brut is currently reduced to £24.99, Waitrose) and if you must, some pink; it's the reds you really want to stock up on. From deep, dark, syrupy numbers to lighter daytime quenchers, it's all about the rouge this National Barbecue Week (May 25th-31st).

### ● GET THE CONVERSATION FLOWING

A smooth drop of magic is what you need as guests start arriving. The Bordiere Nord Syrah Grenache 2014, £6.99, Majestic is very light, with soft, summer fruity notes. In short, it's an absolute delight and we'd drink several more bottles, preferably while cooking a shoulder of lamb.



### ● TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

Sticking with the light reds which are perfect for daytime, the Dolcetto D'Asti 2013, £7, Marks & Spencer, is a gorgeous wine, bursting with fruity cherry flavours and a twist of liquorice on the finish.

### ● GET YOUR COTES...

The La Chasse Reserve 2013, from the Cotes du Rhone region, £7, Sainsbury's, is a rich, oaky red that really packs a punch in the flavour stakes, and goes perfectly with those grilled meats. Plus, the vanilla top notes give it a summery lightness, ideal for long, balmy evenings.

### ● FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Once the barbecue offerings are ready to come off the grill, you can turn up the volume of the wine. Julian Twaites, wine buyer at online supermarket Ocado, believes a "powerful red" is in order, when matching with sausages, burgers, steak and chicken - ideally a shiraz, cabernet sauvignon or malbec. His top tip for May is the Chateau Bru Lagardette Cahors 2012, normally £12.99, but on offer at £7.99, subject to availability, as it's new to the Ocado range.



### ● HOTDOG HEAVEN

A perfect match for a herby sausage, the Winemakers' Selection Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, £5, Sainsbury's, goes down a treat. Vibrant red cherry flavours give way to a hint of mocha with lovely smooth tannins.

### ● TASTE OF ARGENTINA

It might sound predictable, but you can't serve red meat without an Argentinian Malbec. From one of Mendoza's best producers, the Argentinian Malbec Mendoza 2013, £8.99, Waitrose, is a juicy, fruity red, with a little oak to round off the palate.

### ● SPICE UP YOUR LIFE

If you like a peppercorn sauce with your steak, try the Puertas Antiguas Shiraz 2013, £7.50, www.corneyandbarrow.com. A delicious drop from Chile's Valle Central, the soft texture bursts with black fruit, violet notes and a hint of peppery spice.



### ● COOL CHIANTI

Not everyone loves Chianti, but make like a connoisseur and decant your bottle before devouring, and you'll find it brings out the creaminess. Try Spar's Castellani Chianti Riserva, £7.99. With warm spicy notes on the nose, this rounded chianti

has flavours of plum and red fruits, as well as a sharp, clean finish.

### ● GREAT FOR THE GRILL

One sniff of Chateau Brassac 2012 Bordeaux Supérieur, £6.99 (on offer from May 20-June 9, down from £9.99), Co-operative, and you'll be hooked. It smells like the sort of red wine that's going to give you a great big hug, so it's perfect for partygoers taking their barbecue into the evening.



### ● LATE NIGHT LUBRICATION

As the night draws to a close, try a fresh and fragrant red. The medium-bodied Exquisite Collection New Zealand Pinot Noir, £6.99, Aldi, zings with berry fruits on the nose, and liquorice on the long finish. Perfect for chatting 'til dawn.

### ● BEST BUY

It's not just delicious food you can buy at a bargain price at Lidl. Wine sales have surged by almost 40% year-on-year, so to celebrate, their summer collection features 40 new bottles, hitting stores from May 28th and priced from just £4.79.

"The growth of our wine cellar is testament to the great quality wines that we're stocking and the considerable appetite from our customers for fine wine," says Ben Hulme, Lidl UK's senior wine buying manager. "To be recognised as a go-to destination for wine shoppers is something we are delighted to have achieved."

### ● LIQUID NEWS

If you want to throw the most on-trend barbecue you will, of course, need the trendiest drinks to offer your guests. Melody Murray, beers and spirits buyer at Ocado, advises looking out for tea flavours in alcohol, as tea-infused gin cocktails are a big deal on the bar scene (and sales of Harry Brompton's Iced Tea have rocketed by 350 per cent).

"Elderflower is also a growing trend for summer 2015," she says. "You'll see it in everything, from tonic water to cocktails. Add it to Prosecco or champagne for a floral twist on the Bellini."

She predicts "posh fruit ciders" will remain a firm summer favourite, but also worth a try is Cranes - the world's first premium cranberry cider, which comes in at just 99 calories per serve - music to the ears of anyone trying to keep their weight down.



## MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### Goyza pea dumplings in broth with peas, pea shoots and sliced beans



Serves 4

**T**HIS is a great way to use different types of peas and their shoots - think sugar snaps, mange tout, and even asparagus peas. Not much point in using fresh peas for the dumplings, however - frozen ones are convenient and will do the job nicely. You can buy goyza or wonton wrappers in most Asian supermarkets.

For the broth

**1.5ltrs vegetable stock**

**The peelings from root ginger (see below)**

**1 small leek, roughly chopped and washed**

**1 stick of celery, roughly chopped**

**2 cloves of garlic, halved**

For the dumplings

**120-150g frozen peas**

**100ml vegetable stock**

**Salt and pepper**

**8-12 goyza or wonton wrappers**

To serve

**30g root ginger, peeled and finely shredded (use peelings in broth)**

**A handful of pea shoots**

**2-3 spring onions, thinly sliced on the angle**

**12-14 pieces of sugar snap and/or mange tout, thinly shredded**

To make the broth, put all of the ingredients into a saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer very gently for about 40 minutes, then strain through a fine-meshed sieve. Season to taste if necessary.

To make the filling for the dumplings, put the peas and vegetable stock into a saucepan, season and simmer for 5-6 minutes, then remove from the heat.

Blend in a food processor with enough of the vegetable stock to make a fairly smooth purée. Check and correct the seasoning and leave to cool.

To make the dumplings, lay the wonton or goyza wrappers on a flat work surface, brush the edges with water and place a teaspoon of the pea purée in the centre.

Next, fold over and press the edges with your fingers, and place on a plate or tray in the fridge until required; make sure to cover with clingfilm.

To serve, simmer the dumplings in boiling salted water for a couple of minutes, if using wontons, or you can drop the goyza straight into the broth.

Bring the stock to a simmer, add the vegetables and dumplings, simmer for 30 seconds and serve immediately.

## Newly refurbished Pizza Express in Covent Garden

I **CHOSE** early evening on Friday for my visit to this newly refurbished establishment in the midst of the bustling Covent Garden area of the city.

Situated next to the Royal Opera House, the theme chosen for the interior of the restaurant reflects this historical and captivating area, with ornate pillars, leather benches and some lovely and very interesting art adorning the walls.

The restaurant had a nice ambience and although it was very busy the staff were friendly and attentive.

After starters of cheesy doughballs and a tomato and mozzarella salad, both of

### RESTAURANT REVIEW by Nicky Sweetland

which were attractively presented and tasted great, I chose a Romana four seasons pizza and my companion a Melanzane parmigiana.

The pizza, which had plenty of cheese as well as mushrooms, anchovies and capers was great with the thin crust dough base baked to perfection.

My companion's meal was a vegetarian lasagne-style dish with aubergine, tomato and mozzarella all baked together to

make a hearty and well-balanced repast.

We finished with Eton mess cheese-cake, which was both fresh and decadent, plus a glass of wine each.

With my companion's aperitif and my lemonade the bill came to just under £63, which, for the quality of service and food, was very acceptable.





# TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ REVIEWS

*The entertainment scene  
across London*

## Stepping into the dream world of a tortured genius

**I**MMERSED myself in the unfamiliar world of couture designer Alexander McQueen last week.

McQueen worked as chief designer at Givenchy before his untimely death in 2010 robbed the world of what many in the fashion industry believe, was one of the most talented designers of a generation.

First stop on my McQueen journey was the Victoria and Albert Museum where and I was able to see for myself some of the designer's most famous and fabulous creations. My slightly hyperactive feet couldn't help but stop still while I gazed in amazement at some of the most beautiful and bizarre clothing I had ever seen. The exhibit is called *Savage Beauty* and is presented in a series of ten rooms which showcase the dominant themes within McQueen's body of work. McQueen himself once said: "The collections at the V&A never fail to intrigue and inspire me." I'm sure this exhibition will do the same for the lucky few who are able to get tickets.

Next up was the dazzling press night of a new production called simply *McQueen* at the St James' Theatre.

Written by James Philips this one act play is a fan-



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**  
LWN Theatre Critic

tasy with the designer at the centre.

Philips said: "I was asked ages ago to write about Alexander McQueen. It wasn't initially something I wanted to do because I was asked to write a sort of biographical play. Then I started to look at his work and started to connect with him as an artist and I suddenly had this idea of how we could tell the story, not as a bio play but as a dream vision."

"Everything that's said about him is true but the frame of it is like one of his shows, flamboyant and extraordinary. I came up with a show about a girl who breaks into his house and how they go on a fairy story journey over a single night. I had a vision for how this whole thing would work. It linked with quite a lot of other work which I was starting to do at the same time, sort of magical stuff set in London."

Philips had wonderful support from McQueen's family who also attended the press night of the show.

"When I was scheduling production I met with Janet and Michael McQueen, Lee's brother and sister. I had a fascinating and humbling meeting with them and then sent the play to Janet. She wrote me the most beautiful letter about why she loved it and why she felt Lee would have loved it and so she's been very involved from then on. Her son is helping out with images from their family home so that elements of the show have that authenticity. They're just amazing, wonderful and I don't think I would have done the play if Janet hadn't liked it."

Steven Wight plays McQueen and, with his uncanny physical resemblance does so with power and charm. Tracey-Anne Oberman plays McQueen's long time friend Isabella.

Philips continued: "We've got some fantastic people across the board. Steve's playing Lee and that's ter-

rific. He's from the right part of the world which is important and gives an authenticity. Tracey who is playing Isabella Blow is wonderful too. She's a great theatre actress. We've got Dianna Agron who's doing her first play and is an absolute sweetheart. It's been a fantastic experience with all of them."

Dianna Agron, is a young American actress who is best known as Quinn in the cult high school TV series *Glee*. Agron plays Dahlia, the girl who has broken into McQueen's house.

"When I wrote it I wanted it to feel like stepping into a fairy tale or a dream."

"It's an evening where you get to step inside the imagination and the creative spirit of one of the most exciting talents of the last 25 years. I think it will be different. The exhibitions are wonderful. You go and see these beautiful dresses but I think everyone will leave those exhibitions saying but how did this happen? Our play is about the beauty and inspiration and about how those things can save you or not."

The play is an interesting insight into the world of the tortured genius and if you're a fan of the fashion icon, is a must see.

● *McQueen* is at the St James' Theatre until June 27th. Alexander McQueen: *Savage Beauty* in partnership with Swarovski, runs until August 2nd at the Victoria and Albert museum.



■ **TRACY-Ann Oberman as Isabella Blow and Steven Wight as Lee (Alexander) in McQueen**

Photo: Specular

## All shook up by Love Me Tender

LAST week I was lucky enough to be invited to watch a rehearsal of the new production of *Love Me Tender*, a musical featuring the songs of the king of rock 'n' roll, Elvis Presley.

From the producers of *Jersey Boys* and *Hairspray* this new show has been billed as an hilarious feel-good musical set in small town 1950s America. Packed with 25 of the King's best loved songs it has been written by the creator of the West End and Broadway smash hit *Memphis* and is set to tour the UK this summer.

The show boasts an enviable cast for what is a relatively short run, including platinum selling recording artist Mica Paris, as well as Shaun Williamson, best

known for his portrayal of Barry Evans in BBC1's *Eastenders* and former *Emmerdale* villain Sian Reeves.

The rehearsal event was introduced by producer Adam Spiegel and director/choreographer Karen Bruce, who warned the waiting press that it was still a bit rough after just a week of rehearsals.

It was anything but rough and we were treated to a snippet of what looks to be a very good show. We got a glimpse of some of the humour, high tempo dance and characters of this lovely story, which centres around an Elvis-type guitar playing stranger coming upon a sleepy town and changing it forever.

Played by Ben Lewis, this hip-

swinging all rounder showed some of his very King-like moves.

Mica Paris, playing bar owner Sylvia, added some real class with her "There's Always Me" and since she was suffering from tonsillitis, this really was remarkable.

I wouldn't really class myself as an Elvis fan but as soon the music started I couldn't help but smile and want to dance. It was great to see a show in its development stage and I'll look forward to enjoying the finished product later in the year.

The tour opens on June 5th at the Manchester Opera House and will visit the New Wimbledon Theatre from June 22nd-27th. For more details visit [lovemetendermusical.com](http://lovemetendermusical.com)



■ **THE cast of Love Me Tender in rehearsal this week**

Photo by Maria Dawson

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# TALK OF THE TOWN



The entertainment scene across London

## Stepping out for a showdown of dance

YOUNG people across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea are donning their dancing shoes and counting down the beats to one of the biggest events in Epic CIC's annual calendar, Dance Showdown.

The event gives children and young people, aged 7-19 or up to 25 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the opportunity to perform alongside established youth dance companies and guest artists from the best of the UK's dance industry.

This year's event will take place on Friday, June 26th at the prestigious Cadogan Hall, where participants will perform in front of an audience of up to 800 family and friends.

Brendan O'Keefe, Managing Director of Epic CIC, said: "Dance Showdown is a spectacular event which allows children and young people, to access to a range of dance disciplines to inspire them to reach their potential."

"Since 2011, Dance Showdown has provided dance opportunities to more than 1,000 children



DANCERS from last year's Showdown

in RBKC and is part of our on going commitment to raise young people's aspirations, offer opportunities for continued development and achievements and create a legacy of healthy positive activities."

Last year's event saw 200 performers entertain an audience including Deputy Mayor Robert Atkinson and Councillor Gerard Hargreaves and an impressive judging panel featuring Maggie Paterson - Principle of Pineapple Performing Arts School, Laura Hussey - Lead Artist, English National Ballet, Bruno 'Boom' Perrier - senior member of Boy Blue Entertainment and Chantal Spiteri - Managing Director and Producer of ZooNation.

Maggie Paterson said: "The levels and professionalism is getting higher and everybody is getting better. Dance Showdown is amazing."

For more information about Dance Showdown, or to buy tickets costing £8 each, contact Tania Moore on 020 7938 8040 or email [tania.moore@epiccic.org.uk](mailto:tania.moore@epiccic.org.uk).



## Last chance to enter big busking competition for all young musicians

WITH just three days to go for entries, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson is urging young London musicians and singers bidding for stardom to enter this year's Gigs busking competition.

Performers living in London and aged from 11-25 have until midnight on Sunday, May 31st to get their entries in for this year's competition. As well as playing at some of the busiest,

most iconic locations in London prizes up for grabs include a highly sought after licence to busk on London Underground, recording time, coaching from chart-topping songwriters, equipment and the chance to busk in Paris. The winners will be decided at the Gigs Grand Final at Westfield Stratford City in September.

Gigs has already helped kick start the careers of several musicians and bands, including singer-songwriter Robbie Boyd, who is now touring around the world and recently released his first album; James Riley, who is also building a following playing gigs across America; and Tom Butler who picked up the Gigs 2014 songwriting prize sponsored by PRS for music, giving him the chance to play at this year's Glastonbury Festival; and The King's Parade, who were spotted as a result of their busking prize in Paris and are now touring regularly in Germany and France.

The talented buskers taking part in this year's Gigs competition will have the chance to play at this year's Busk in London festival, which kicks off on July 18th as part of the first National Busking Day - a day celebrating street performance taking place in cities around

the country.

Gigs is open to Londoners between the ages of 11-25, whatever your musical style from classical to pop and R&B to folk. The three categories are: Youth, for performers aged 11-15; Soloists and Duos aged 16-25; Groups, for 2-8 members, aged 11-25.

Their performances will be filmed and uploaded online giving the public the chance to vote for their favourite acts. They will also be judged by a panel of music industry experts. Six performers in each category will go through to the Grand Final on Sunday, September 6th.

Last year, an estimated 1.8 million people saw Gigs performers across the capital, and it is the UK's biggest free music festival and the country's largest youth music competition.

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "There are talented musicians in every corner of the capital who have a dream of becoming a major star like Ed Sheeran, Mumford and Sons, or Adele. Gigs is a fantastic opportunity to get exposure, build your confidence and expertise playing live and win prizes designed to hone your craft. Come on, you've just two weeks to enter and be part of one of the biggest music events of the year."



SINGER songwriter Robbie Boyd, who recently released his first album was helped on his way by entering the Gigs busking competition



### House of Lords v House of Commons Tug of War

June 2nd 2015  
Westminster College Garden, Great College Street, Westminster.  
Gates open 5.30pm, matches 6.30pm  
Raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

### Beating Retreat: Waterloo Remembered at Horse Guards Parade

June 10th and 11th 2015  
Dating back to the 1690s, this ceremonial musical event is a pageant of precision drill, horses, cannons and fireworks set to music. The event brings together The Massed Bands, Drums, Pipes and Corps of Drums of the Household Division with The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and visiting military bands from around the world. For 2015, the Bands of the Troupes de Marine and the Legion Etrangere (French Foreign Legion) participate in the First World War and D-Day

### Chelsea Embankment

Until June 5th 2015  
200 new paintings of the iconic Embankment on show at the Osbourne Gallery, Belgravia.

### Art Antiques London

June 12th - 18th 2015  
Albert Hall Memorial West Lawn, Kensington Gardens, SW7 (opposite the Royal Albert Hall)  
Website: [www.haughton.com](http://www.haughton.com)  
Set in the beautiful parkland of Kensington Gardens, the Fair's Pavilion is positioned next to the Albert Memorial and opposite the Royal College of Art and The Royal Albert Hall; it is the first fair to take place on the historic site of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

### Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair

18th - 28th June 2015  
Olympia National, Olympia London, Hammer-smith Road, W14. Website: [www.olympia-art-antiques.com](http://www.olympia-art-antiques.com)  
Over 160 of the world's leading antiques specialist dealers will be present at the Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair, which is now in its 43rd year. With pieces ranging from £100 to £1 million, the Fair offers the most diverse variety of high quality, vetted art, antiques and collectors' pieces than any other event in London.

### Artists at Home 52 Open Studios

June 19th to 21st  
All types of art media including painting, print

making, textiles, jewellery, sculpture, pottery, bronze and photography on display in artist's own homes and studios in Chiswick, Hammer-smith and Shepherd's Bush. Friday 6-9pm, Saturday and Sunday. Meet with the artists in a relaxed setting to chat and ask questions. For more information and a list of artists taking part go to [www.artistsathome.net](http://www.artistsathome.net)

### Lunchtime Lectures

Thursday, June 25th 2015  
National Army Museum Lunchtime Lectures:  
The Glorious Revolution. Free lunchtime talk by Dr Ted Vallance. Also on July 23rd - The Women of Waterloo by Catriona Kennedy.

### Armenian General Benevolent Union presents 'Living Memory'

Friday June 26th 2015 (4 - 10.30pm)  
The magnificent Great Chelsea Hall is playing host to a day of artistic and cultural performances to mark The Centenary of Armenian Genocide. The event begins at 4pm, with an exhibition of paintings 'Memory is Still Alive'. At 7pm the cultural programme starts with a talk "Remembering the Armenians in Turkey Today", followed by recital, music, and dance, performed by talented Armenian artists. Admission is Free.

### Andre Rieu's 2015 Maastricht Concert at Vue Fulham Broadway

July 17th - 23rd  
The king of waltz performs in his home town joined by his famous Johann Strauss Orchestra.

### Buckingham Palace summer opening

August 1st to September 27th 2015  
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces - don't miss the chance to see it. Explore the lavishly furnished State Rooms, containing some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. Highlights include: Paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer, Poussin, Canaletto and Claude Sculpture by Canova and Chantrey Exquisite examples of Sèvres porcelain Some of the finest English and French furniture in the world

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# TALK OF THE TOWN ★ *The entertainment scene across London*



■ ADAM Riches in *Stop! ... The Play*

## Stop the play, I want to get off!

By Nicky Sweetland

**F**ORMER Reduced Shakespeare Company members John Schwab and Tim Beckmann are to present the world premiere of *Stop!... The Play*, a madcap, theatrical comedy by David Spicer, in which the worst night in the theatre becomes the most hilarious play in town.

The cast features Adam Riches (2011 Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award winner) as The Leading Man. He took time out from rehearsals to talk to me about how it's going.

"Really well," he said. "This is the last week of rehearsals before we do the week of previews at Croydon. It's a very fast-paced comedy and the writing is very short, choppy and staccato so you have to get the rhythm of it. If you find that beat you can bat off each other and keep that momentum going so it looks as if we're talking a thousand miles an hour when actually we're not. That's what the rehearsals are focussing on and it's good."

The play charts the journey of a group of actors who embark on a worthy (if slightly dull) English kitchen sink drama which, with daily rewrites by the absent and completely insane writer, becomes a shockingly sexual pseudo-psycho drama. Characters are cut, new characters are introduced and everything changes from day to day. The cast battles to keep up, but instead of making the play bet-

ter, the rewrites make it worse.

"It's the worst case scenario, it's not so much that the play is going wrong it's that in the first act there is the constant changing of everything. As soon as the actors find themselves in the position where they've got a character, a scene, a motivation, a storyline or a plot to hang on to and perform it's then taken straight out from under their feet because there's a new draft of the script."

The cast is made up of seven, with five playing actors, one director and one stage manager.

Adam said his character is: "The biggest egotistical, self-absorbed actor you could ever create really."

"I get to act in a way I would never ever dream of being. What I like about it is that you kind of sympathise with him because he is everything you would hate

about that type of character but he's an awful person in an awful situation. I think the audience will feel a deep sympathy for the characters."

Riches has a busy year ahead and will take part in more of the children's hit TV series *Horrible Histories* as well as returning to Edinburgh in August.

Asked what he likes to do most he said: "I get attracted to whatever is in the moment. I don't really have a grand plan. I find balancing writing my own projects with doing other people's work is actually a healthier thing for my mind set."

"While we're performing *Stop!...The Play* I'm rehearsing two other plays. I'm doing two at Edinburgh this year - my own show in the evening and another play in the afternoon."

Adam continued: *Stop!... The Play* is a very funny piece fundamentally. The characters are very clear, the casting is excellent. The producer and the writer have created something that is a fresh take on the actors in the rehearsal room together. In such a small and intimate space you're never sure what's going to happen and where the show will be going next."

● The show will preview in The Studio at Fairfield Halls, Croydon until Saturday May 30th Box Office: 0208 688 9291 [www.fairfield.co.uk](http://www.fairfield.co.uk) and will then open in the West End at Trafalgar Studio 2 for a four-week run from Tuesday June 2nd - Saturday June 27th.



## Look what happened to Jerry's Girls



SARAH-Louise Young, Emma Barton and Ria Jones in *Jerry's Girls*. Photo: Poppy Carter

**I** WAS delighted to see the transfer of *Jerry's Girls*, the Jerry Herman revue which ran for two weeks at the St James' Studio back in March, to the The Jermyn Street Theatre this week.

The production, with simple but clever staging, showcases the exquisite writing of one of the worlds most famous Broadway composers.

Herman, whose works include *Hello Dolly*, *Mame* and *Mack and Mabel* has an extensive back catalogue which is performed with aplomb by this glorious cast of seasoned West End professionals, merged with some fresh new stage talent.

With bits of Herman history interspersed with fun song and dance, this wonderful show boasts one of Time Out's top ten cabaret acts as part of the cast. The indomitable Sarah-Louise Young brings a flavour of this to *Jerry's Girls* and has a wonderful repartee with the audience. Her "Look What Happened to Mabel" was innocent and yet extremely engaging. She is joined by Emma Barton, who is best known for her portrayal of Honey Mitchell in *Eastenders* and is the only cast change from the St James' version. Barton's "If He Walked into my Life" from *Mame* was a real showstopper and gave her the

chance to demonstrate her vocal expertise.

The third *Jerry's* girl on the bill - Ria Jones - is a shining star. Jones has the ability to make the audience laugh or cry. Her version of "I Am What I Am" from *La Cage Aux Folles* was simply phenomenal and worthy of its rapturous response from this press night audience.

Musical accompaniment was expertly provided by Edward Court and Sophie Byrne, who switched from instrument to instrument, sang and even did a bit of tap.

There were a few technical issues, which was a shame, including a very pregnant pause during Act 1, when a sound queue was missed but luckily this didn't detract too much from the performances.

As a fan of Herman's songs and shows this was always going to be a winner for me, but I have to say it was missing a bit of the fizz of the St James' Studio production. It maybe just that I missed the intimacy of the cabaret style seating and felt less involved in this version. That said, it is a truly enjoyable evening and a show I would highly recommend.

● *Jerry's Girls* runs at The Jermyn Street theatre until the May 31st.



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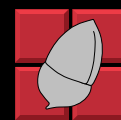
### Streatham Office

4 Streatham High Road, London SW16 1DB

**020 8768 6373**

streatham@acorn.ltd.uk

acorn.ltd.uk



# acorn

The Acorn Group, incorporating:



John Payne





# Classified

**Post:** London Weekly News, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge, SE20 7TS

**Email:** candy.brown@slp.co.uk **Telephone:** 0208 768 4919

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### Articles Wanted

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Forget the rest! We pay the best!! Cash Waiting!!

**Jake 020 7485 9958 / 07961 315874**

### Bargain Buys

**TOM TOM XL ONE** in excellent condition, UK and Europe 46 comes with mount holder, inc. Ireland, for sale £55. Tel: 07960 628 225

**LADIES DELINA DRESSER SET** brand new boxed with marcasite adornments, would make lovely present £18. 020 8461 0846

**ANTIQUE SINGER SEWING MACHINE** in black & gold, working £35. Babylist Curling Tongs £5. Wickes Circular FM stereo aerial £5. 020 8693 8665

**GAS HOB** brand new in box £25 ono. Freezer, fits under worktop £30. Microwave £15.00. Can deliver all above. Tel: 07961 510 682

**GEORGE FORMAN GRILL** (Junior), never used £5. 020 8672 0190

**LARGE CUP SAUCER** Roy Kirkham Alpine strawberry design fine bone china, standard cup saucer. Royal Albert vintage florals, grape design, bone china cup saucer. Laura Ashley hand decorated pink light green tulip design, shaped tulip handle, perfect condition, £20. Tel: 020 8312 2476

### Tuition .

**CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL** or educated at home Ring Mr Coles, St Brendans 020 7738 2455

**CHINESE GLASS FRONTED CABINET** 5ftx7ft, Havery Nichols, 25 years old. Need own transport. £50. Tel: 07870 956 759

**SOLID PINE BOOK SHELF** 30 1/2" long, 36" high, 9" deep £20. Circular Skill Saw £25 ono. Extension Leads 5m & 10m, brand new, round windup reels £15 and £25. Electrical rectangular sander £20. Old Wooden School Desk in new condition £20 ono, white solid wood. Can deliver all above. 07961 510 682

**THREE PIECE SUITE** light brown, good condition 2xtwo sofas £100. One armchair and one poofy £75 (all matching), quick sale, buyer collects. SE26/SE6 area. 020 8695 9994

**DOUBLE HOTPLATE** new still in box £15, Silver Dorens Thimble £10. 020 8858 7569

**LOVELY DRESSING TABLE** triple mirrors £50. Standard lamp and shade £10. Tel: 020 8770 9807

### Beds/Bedroom

**BEIGE SATION DOUBLE EIDERDOWN** £5. Tel: 07435 074 860

### Bicycles

**MANS 27" RACING BIKE** £100 ono. Tel: 07955 116 607

### Caravan & Camping

### Family Holiday Home For Sale

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Discounted ferry travel for owners. Great on-site facilities. 10 mins from the beach.

**NOW ONLY £13,600**  
**FREE 2015 Site Fees** (Finance options available)  
Call/text Kerry on **07568 147 015**

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**Static Caravans For Sale At Camber Sands Holiday Park**  
Call Charlotte 07446 111 787

**Static Caravan Clearance Sale!**  
From only **£8,995** with **FREE** site fees  
Camber Sands is the premier holiday park on the South East Coast open 12 months of the year. Chalets & Lodges available too, finance available with a 10% deposit. Buy with confidence, HPI checked & fully warranty offered.  
**Call Charlotte today 07446 111 787**

### CARAVAN FOR SALE Camber Sands Holiday Park

- Sleeps 6
- Beach Access
- £5,000 +
- Connection & Fees
- Finance Available

**Call Luke 07950 127 697**

### Domestic Appliances

**KOGAN 1000 WATTS BLENDER** new/unused still in package box £60. Murphy Richard Bread Maker - only used twice in perfect working order £35. Mini Deep Fryer £15, new still in box. 07830 535 635, 020 7358 9745

**UPRIGHT BALL VACUUM CLEANER** Dyson DC24, not very old, complete, demonstrate working, moving from house to flat £65. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Could deliver.

**HOOVERETTE** midel 2944, working order in original box £15. Microwave (cream colour) £15. Hinari Lifestyle. Tel: 07435 074 860

**IRONING BOARD** good condition £5. Tel: 07435 074 860

### Electrical

**Electric Nearly New Cooker**  
V. good condition 4 rings, grill, oven etc  
Collect nr S. Norwood station  
**£150**  
**07737 261 950**

### Fashion

**PARALYMPIC GAMES T-SHIRT** Trainers, track suit bottom (new) white, all 2012 Olympic, wore once, only negotiate prices, leather black boots, ladies nearly new. Tel: 020 8857 8060 / 0752 701 2628

**MENS SUMMER ZIP-UP JACKET** brand ne, various colours and sizes. Half price £15 each or less in black. Tel: 07552 433 829

### Fashion

**LARGE BAG OF VARIOUS LADIES CLOTHES** approx size 12/14 including black leather handbags. £10 the lot. Tel: 07435 074 860

**29 LADIES HANDBAGS** assorted styles & colours £2 & £3 each or all for £65 ono (Morden). Tel: 020 8646 1247

### Furniture

**SOLID WOOD ITALIAN COFFEE TABLE** with ball and claw feet, collect from Thamesmead £25 and is in perfect condition. Tel: 07810 541 409

**WOODEN CABINET** pure wood, light brown, good condition, top area, 3 shelves with glass display and below 2 doors, all closed in. Size approx 6ft tall 4ft wide £50 ono. Buyer collects SE26/SE6 Area. Quick sale. 020 8695 9994

**SUN LOUNGER** nearly new, perfect condition, dark colour, folding £25 ono. Can arrange to deliver. Tel 020 8692 8449

**ITALIAN COFFEE TABLE** solid wood, excellent condition. Collect from SE28 Tel: 07810 541 409

**SMALL TABLE TWO CHAIRS** metal & wood seat, as new £20 ono. Tel: 020 7733 0623 evenings

**DROP LEAF TABLE PLUS CHAIRS** real wood £20, Sideboard £10. Tel: 020 7733 0623

**COMPACT TUBLER TABLE AND 2 CHAIRS** as new, silver colour, only £25. 020 7733 0623

**METAL CABINET** (two drawers). £5. Tel: 020 8672 0190

### Gardening Products

**HOVER MOWER FLYMO 330** electric, built in grass box 2015 model, moving from house to flat in Maidstone £75. Expensive mower when new 2015. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Could deliver.

**GARDEN TUBS** concrete, in cracked ice design, square with 2" lip, 1ft x 1ft x 1ft deep £15 each. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Can arrange delivery.

### Health & Beauty

**PHILISHAVE TRACER (HS 355/S)** 30min charge- electronic rechargeable £10. Tel: 07435 074 860

### Health & Beauty

**VARIOUS MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS** etc of Royal Family £10 the lot. Tel: 07435 074 860

### Jewellery / Watches/Clocks

**TWO PANDORA ITEMS** 1 bracelet £25; 1 bangle £45, silver. Call 020 8879 6245

### Mother & Baby

**PREMIUM BABYSTART PUSHCHAIR** all extras, Cosytoes raincover, shopping basket, immac condition £20. Tel: 020 8853 2899

### Pets & Livestock

**2 SMALL DOG BASKETS** plastic, £7 the pair or £4 each. Tel: 07435 074 860

### TV Video Audio

**30" SONY TELEVISION** with stand and remote £60. Solid wood high chair £20. Selection of office swivel leather chairs, black/red from £20. Can deliver Tel: 07961 510 682

### Tools & DIY

**NEW SKIPTON CLEAR PINE DOOR** interior, glazed door, size 1981 x 762 x 35mm £45. Mob. 07522 705 542

**ROLL OF HEAVY DUTY ROOFING FELT** £20. Tel: 020 8672 0190

**4 PIPE CUTTERS** £12. 020 8672 0190

### Musical

**40 SINGLE RECORDS** 1960's, 70's & 80's. Tel: 07435 074 860

### Sports & Leisure

**LADIES SCUBA DIVING GEAR** small, never used B.C.D. Lifejacket with H.P. inflation hose £80. Demand valve regulator and content gauge £80 used in swimming pool 2014 £100 the two. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Could deliver.

**London News**

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**To advertise your unwanted items. Sell them in London Weekly News Series for FREE.**

Telephone Number inc. Code .....  
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Text of advertisement (Max. 40 words) .....

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**Chinese Builder**  
Roofing, Brickwork, Plastering, Electrics, Carpentry, Kitchens, Interior Tiling, Driveways, Plumbing, Landscaping, Bathrooms, Shop Fitting, Decorating and Extensions, New Buildings.  
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Do all sorts of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, decorating, fitting, fixing, assembling, hanging and other specialised and general handyman jobs!  
ALL WORK IS GUARANTEED AND CARRIED OUT TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS  
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Help your Mums' and Dads' Charity's Pop-In!  
Donate all items incl. Re-usable furniture  
Free collections  
Ring DAGE  
**020 8691 8823**

**AFFORDABLE REMOVALS**  
House Clearance  
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Family run since 1987  
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Please contact Charlotte on  
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First Choice for cleaning  
Professional, reliable, vetted and insured cleaners. Excellent rates. Outstanding value.  
T: **020 8452 2900**  
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Sanding, staining, sealing, waxing, wood floor repairs, woodworm treatment  
95% dust free, hard wood, parquet, oak, hard woodstrip, solid oak flooring supplied and fitted from £70 sq metre  
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Professional reliable service  
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FENCES NEW REPAIRS  
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SHEDS AND PAVING  
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We will beat any written quotation  
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ALL INSTALLATIONS UNDERTAKEN. QUICK, RELIABLE SERVICE.  
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To advertise in the adult services section  
Please contact  
**020 8768 4921**

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**BOILER HEATING PLUMBING SPECIALISTS**  
We can cover all your needs with just one call  
Boiler & Heating Repairs / Renew / Updates / Boiler Service / Power Flushing / Plumbing Repairs / Leaks / New Tanks / Ball Valves / Dripping Taps / Friendly Local Service / All Works Guaranteed  
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[www.firstcallplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.firstcallplumbingandheating.co.uk)

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**RUBBISH CLEARANCE**  
Flats - Houses - Gardens - Yards  
Waste - Rubbish - Anything  
We Load - Much cheaper than a skip  
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**07904 038 332**  
**jtay1961@gmail.com**

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We will beat any quote  
Call Tom  
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**ONE PACK STOP STORE & POST**  
lock & leave self storage  
Highly secure storage facility with mailbox hire & packaging supplies  
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Battersea, London SW8 4UB

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Family business for over 60 years  
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All London area's covered  
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From £26 per hour From £50 per hour  
Single item £35 within a 2 mile radius  
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Visit: [storyteller.co.uk](http://storyteller.co.uk)  
Minimum Booking - 2hrs

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£25 P/H  
Extra men £10 P/H - P/M  
Single items from £20  
Reliable, trustworthy and friendly.  
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**ADDINGTON BOOT FAIR**  
One of the Best Fairs in the South East  
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
at Meadowcrest Farm,  
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Between Wrotham and West Malling on A20  
Sellers from 6.30-10.30am, Cars £11, Large Vans £14  
**07795 967 609**  
[www.jpmaffairs.com](http://www.jpmaffairs.com)  
No selling of counterfeit goods \*As seen on TV

**BATTERSEA BOOT SALE**  
**HARRIS ACADEMY**  
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**EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON**  
**1.30-5.00PM**  
**OPEN RAIN OR SHINE**  
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**SELLERS MUST BOOK IN ADVANCE**  
[www.batterseaboot.com](http://www.batterseaboot.com)  
24 HR INFO: **07941 383 588**

**Honeydale Farm**  
217 Maidstone Road, Sidcup  
DA14 5AW - **07831 602277**

**BOOT SALES - 2015**  
SUNDAYS - WEDNESDAYS - FRIDAYS - 7am  
ALSO BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY  
**£10 standard pitch - £15 large pitch**  
Parking £1 - Pedestrians 50p - under 16 years free  
More details on [FACEBOOK.com/Honeydalefarm](http://FACEBOOK.com/Honeydalefarm)  
[www.honeydale.co.uk](http://www.honeydale.co.uk) (bus 233) - NO DOGS

**CAPITAL CARBOOT SALE**  
Indoor/Outdoor runs all year  
Every Sunday Pimlico Academy,  
Lupus Street, SW1V 3AT  
Book stall online  
Buyers £5 10.15am, £1 11.30am - 2.30pm  
[www.capitalcarboot.com](http://www.capitalcarboot.com)

**FLAMINGO PARK GIANT BOOT SALE**  
Every Sunday  
**NEW LOWER PRICES**  
Sellers 9.00am ★ Buyers 10.00am  
Buyers not allowed in before 10.00am  
Cars £12 ★ Cars with Trailers £14 ★ Vans £16  
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NO DOGS ★ Parking £1.50 ★ Licensed Bar & TV  
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[flamingoparks@aol.com](mailto:flamingoparks@aol.com)

**SMB EVENTS®**  
**GIGANTIC SUPER BOOT SALE**  
At **PEDHAM PLACE, SWANLEY BR8 8PP**  
On **Sunday 24th May and Bank Holiday Monday 25th May**  
6am - 2pm  
Full details  
[www.smbbootsales.co.uk](http://www.smbbootsales.co.uk)  
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**MOB: 07920 111 904**

**BEST SATURDAY BOOT SALES & BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25TH MAY**  
Ark Oval Fields, Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, CR0 6BA  
**EVERY SATURDAY FROM 8am**  
Sellers from 8am, Cars £10, Vans £15.  
V.Busy, Sell Loads, Great Public  
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Free Parking, Loads Bargains, V.Busy.  
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# LONDON WEEKLY JOBS

Call: 0208 768 4919 Fax: 0208 776 8863 Email: [candy.brown@slp.co.uk](mailto:candy.brown@slp.co.uk)

## Office & Clerical

Millennium Group 

### URGENTLY REQUIRED EXPERIENCED:

- **Office Administrator**  
with organisational and computer skills,  
salary up to £18K F/T
  - **Marketing Consultant**  
Salary up to £25k, F/T
- Submit CV to [office@mealtd.co.uk](mailto:office@mealtd.co.uk)  
or Call **Tel. 0800 177 7147**  
Location: Streatham, London

## Catering / Hotel / Bar

**Counter/Kitchen  
Assistant Permanent &  
Part Time** 1yr Full time  
maternity cover,  
Restaurant requires  
enthusiastic person,  
Tues-Sat. Apply to  
Arments Pie and Mash  
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**0207 703 4974** for  
application form.

**To advertise in  
the  
adult services  
section  
Please contact  
020  
8768  
4921**

**DAY**  
AGGREGATES  
require a

**YARD OPERATIVE**  
for our Greenwich depot experienced in  
general labouring duties. Forklift experience  
would be beneficial. 55 hours per week  
Monday to Saturday. Basic plus bonus.

Application form available from  
[www.daygroup.co.uk](http://www.daygroup.co.uk).

## Office Manager

**Iqra VA Primary School**  
Clapham, SW London

Iqra VA Primary School is  
a small, popular, one-form  
entry, Muslim faith school,  
part of a federation with two local community  
schools. Iqra is a welcoming and caring school  
which is very well supported by its community.  
The Islamic philosophy and ethos is essential  
to school life.

**We are looking for YOU if you are  
the Office Manager with Vision for  
change and challenge.**

SO1, Spine Point 29-31: £28,845 - £30,525  
Full-time: 35 hours per week, 52 weeks pa

- The Governing Body wishes to appoint an  
Office Manager who is:
- Confident in their ability to develop a high  
functioning office
  - Ability to support the Headteacher in the  
running of the school
  - Be a good team player
  - Expect high standards from their team
  - To work effectively with outside agencies  
and Local Authority

To obtain a recruitment pack, including  
Job Description and Person Specification,  
please contact: Mrs Najma Khambao,  
Admin Assistant on 020 7622 3630.  
Iqra VA Primary School, 127 Park Hill, off  
Clarence Avenue, Clapham, London SW4 9PA.  
Email: [hr@iqra.lambeth.sch.uk](mailto:hr@iqra.lambeth.sch.uk)

### Visits to the school essential.

Closing date for the receipt of completed  
application forms: 12 noon 29th May 2015

Successful candidates will be asked to apply for an  
Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service.  
Further information about the disclosure can be found at  
[www.gov.uk/dbs](http://www.gov.uk/dbs) and in the recruitment pack.

Lambeth aims for quality services  
and equal opportunities for all.  
[www.lambeth.gov.uk](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk)



## Learning Support Assistants Art and Design Technology Technician

City Heights E-ACT Academy is a newly-established 11-18 secondary academy in  
Tulse Hill. It is part of the E-ACT Multi-Academy Trust and also has strong ties to  
the Lambeth education family.

We are looking to appoint an Art and Design Technology Technician as well as  
increase our team of Learning Support Assistants for September 2015.

We welcome applications from both experienced LSAs as well as those with  
Autistic experience to work with our ASD students.

City Heights Academy recently underwent its  
first Ofsted inspection, receiving a Good  
judgement across all categories.

If you would like to apply please visit our  
website at [www.cityheightse-actacademy.org](http://www.cityheightse-actacademy.org)  
or for further information please e-mail Ollie  
at [work@chea.org.uk](mailto:work@chea.org.uk)

Closing date: Monday 8th June



## DASL Direct Payments Support Service

### Personal Care Assistant VACANCIES

Personal Assistants needed throughout  
Lambeth to support disabled adults and  
children and older people.

Various positions available to provide support  
with personal care, cleaning, shopping and  
accessing the community.  
Various hours available.

To view all vacancies and apply go to  
[www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/payments](http://www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/payments)



## RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Full time)

Rosemead is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic  
person to join the very busy administration team.

### Essential skills

- Excellent telephone manner
- Excellent communication skills
- Able to multitask
- Able to work using own initiative
- IT literate (Microsoft Office)
- Able to work as part of a team

**Salary in range of:** £15,000 - £18,000 p.a.  
**Hours:** 08:00 - 16:30

**Holiday:** 5 weeks, plus bank holidays

Application form and job profile may be  
downloaded from the school website or by  
emailing [dibright@rosemeadprepschool.org.uk](mailto:dibright@rosemeadprepschool.org.uk).

Completed application forms, should be sent to  
Mr R Sawyer, School Business Manager,  
Rosemead Preparatory School,  
70 Thurlow Park Road, Dulwich, SE21 8HZ

We would like to thank all those who apply, but we  
will only contact applicants who are shortlisted.

Rosemead is an equal opportunities employer and has an active  
commitment to safeguarding.  
The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced CRB  
check.

70 Thurlow Park Road

Dulwich, SE21 8HZ

Tel: 0208 8670 5865

[www.rosemeadprepschool.org.uk](http://www.rosemeadprepschool.org.uk)

Charity no 268482

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**LONDON WEEKLY NEWS**

sport

# Ramsey given rebuilding job

**W**HILE many managers would view taking the QPR job as a poisoned chalice, for Chris Ramsey it's a golden chance the club's former head of player development could not possibly have envisaged falling into his lap just three months ago.

Although few would blame Ramsey for R's relegation from the Premier League, his record of two wins, two draws and nine defeats since taking temporary charge at the start of February is hardly likely to attract many permanent job offers this high up the football food chain.

But he has found himself in the right place at the right time.

## Challenge

Following last week's announcement that he has been rewarded with a three-year contract until June 2018, he expressed his delight at being handed the role on a permanent basis: "This is a fantastic opportunity for me and one I am tremendously excited about. I enjoyed my time in temporary charge, despite the way the season panned out, and now I'm looking forward to the challenge of helping rebuild this club over the coming years."

"I am fully aware of what this club means to its supporters and I intend to do everything possible to help build a QPR team they can be proud of."

If Ramsey had been under even the slightest



CHRIS Ramsey ponders big changes at Loftus Road Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

illusion of the scale of the task facing him in the months ahead, Sunday's embarrassing 5-1 capitulation at lowly Leicester provided compelling evidence of how huge that rebuilding process will be. Thanks to Burnley's victory at Aston Villa, the final day results condemned Hoops to bottom spot in the Premier League.

He said afterwards: "Everybody knows the rebuilding job we've got here now and it's important people are patient with what we are going to do."

"In the long term, we need to make sure that whatever happens, we are on a stable footing for a

long time to come. "We know the task at hand and we need a good summer in terms of recruitment and to come back at the end of June ready for a productive pre-season."

## Right man

Chairman Tony Fernandes believes the 53 year-old – who took over the position on a temporary basis following Harry Redknapp's resignation in February – is the right man to lead Rangers into the future.

He said: "When Chris took over the role we were already in a very difficult position, yet despite our relegation,

we, as a board, have been impressed with the professionalism and attention to detail he has demonstrated since becoming head coach. "He lives and breathes management and coaching and I am sure he will flourish in this role, as we look to bounce back from this season's disappointments."

"This is a new start for us and one I am confident Chris will relish playing a major part in."

Director of football Les Ferdinand added: "From the board, to the players, to the staff, Chris has impressed everyone here in his

short time in charge.

"His coaching methods and techniques are second to none and with an opportunity to work with new players going forward, he is the ideal candidate for the role in terms of our new philosophy of nurturing young talent and promoting from within."

"Rebuilding the club is our first target. If we can make an immediate return to the Premier League, then great, but we have to focus on re-establishing the traditions of QPR. That will take time but in Chris we have a man who is relishing the challenge that lies ahead."

Ferdinand is wise to advocate cautious realism and a long-term approach to solving immediate problems. QPR are clearly more vulnerable than the two other relegated clubs, Hull City and Burnley, whose playing budgets won't be determined largely by the size of the Financial Fair Play fine hanging over the west Londoners. Managing to avoid replicating Wigan's dire fate of two relegations in the last three seasons will not be a formality.

That is why Charlie Austin's 18th goal of the season, a header at Leicester, is certain to be his last for QPR since signing from Burnley two summers ago. Fernandes and co. will cash in on their biggest asset, who is rated around the £10m mark.

In that respect, last week's call-up to the senior England squad for a friendly against the Republic of Ireland and a Euro qualifier against Slovenia couldn't have been more timely for club and player, whose value will automatically increase as a result of

his new found international status.

Just being around other England players will convince Austin, as if he needed any convincing, that he must remain among the leading top flight goal scorers next season rather than bear the burden of carrying QPR's Championship hopes on his shoulders.

## Fans banking on Austin

**A BET on Charlie Austin to score for England could earn thousands for speculative fans of non-league Poole Town.**

A group of 16, including commercial chief Mark Bumford, placed a £155 bet at 50-1 in 2010 when Austin had started at Swindon Town, having left Poole.

With the 25-year-old having received his first call-up, the group are now closing in on a £7,905 payout.

"The local bookies are aware they might have to cough up. They don't mind. It's good publicity," said Bumford.

Southern Premier League Poole were in the Wessex League Premier Division when Austin joined them in 2008 from Thatcham Town.

The forward spent a season at the Dorset club where he had an astonishing scoring record.

Bumford added: "He was always confident and sure of himself. A little cocky."

"But with 46 goals in 46 games in his first season, then 18 goals in his last 11 matches for us, including five in his last game, he could afford to be."



**County Cricket**



**KUMAR Sangakkara scored his second LV Championship century for Surrey as their Division Two match with Northants ended, as expected, in a draw.**

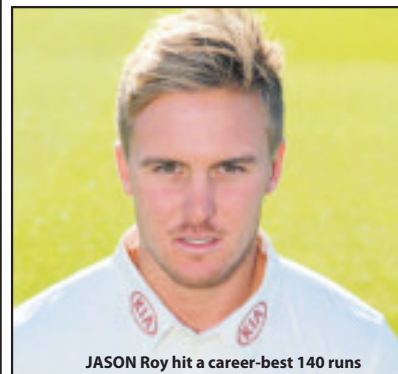
Persistent rain during days one and two wrecked any hopes of a positive result.

But the visitors were keen to secure maximum bonus points and did so thanks to Sangakkara (111) and a career-best 140 off 145 balls from Jason Roy.

They put on 170 for the fifth wicket as Surrey declared on 499-6 in reply to Northants' 309 all out. Sri Lanka international Sangakkara, 37, hit 149 against Glamorgan in his first match for the county last month and passed three figures again at Wantage Road, his innings containing 11 fours.

Roy told Surrey's official website, [kiaoval.com](http://kiaoval.com): "Kumar is a great man and a great cricketer and it was enjoyable batting with him. He talked me through, step by step, how to build an innings. It was interesting and I learned a lot from him. That is all you can ask for from a man of his stature. It was a great feeling batting with him – I didn't want to get out, I just wanted to stay with him."

Surrey are in NatWest T20 Blast action tomorrow (Friday, 5.30pm) away to Kent at Beckenham.



JASON Roy hit a career-best 140 runs

**NICK Compton scored his first LV Championship century of the season to help Division One league leaders Middlesex to a draw against Hampshire at Southampton.**

The former England batsman hit 18 fours all around the wicket in his first innings to make 117 and steer his side out of trouble at 152-5.

Middlesex head coach Richard Scott said: "It was a good week's work by both sides and a good draw for both parties. We walk away with 10 points, they walk away with 11."

"I'm generally happy with what I saw. I thought we bowled well in the second innings as a group, probably the best we've bowled all year so far."

Two days before Middlesex drew with Hampshire, Compton had top-scored with 78 off 53 balls in his side's seven wicket defeat by Gloucestershire in their opening NatWest T20 Blast game at Bristol.

Their next T20 encounter is against Kent at Lord's this evening (Thursday, 6.15pm), before tomorrow's (Friday, 7.00pm) trip to Hove to face Sussex in the same competition.

Controlling a pass from midway in the Fulham half, he turns away from his marker and lashes home a right-footer that sails over the keeper and just under the bar from 22 yards.

Supporters can only vote via the official website at [www.fulhamfc.com](http://www.fulhamfc.com), where you can view footage of all 10 contenders before deciding. Voting closes tomorrow (Friday).

For what it's worth, LWN Sport can't decide between the two fine goals scored by talented 20-year-old Dane Lasse Vigen Christensen. Either is worthy of winning it – but it's your votes that count!

**Fulham duo Marcus Bettinelli and Cauley Woodrow have been named in the preliminary England Under-21 squad for the upcoming European Championship in the Czech Republic.**

Manager Gareth Southgate has named an initial 27-man party, which he will cut to 23 for the summer tournament which kicks off on June 17.

England's final warm-up match will see them face Belarus at Barnsley on June 11, in preparation for their group stage fixtures against Portugal, Sweden and Italy.

## Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

# Goal of the Season

**F**ULHAM are inviting fans to vote for their Goal of the Season at the end of a Championship campaign that, although generally disappointing, produced 71 strikes – 62 in the Championship, plus nine in the cups – that found the target.

The club has whittled the choice down to the following 10 from which to choose the best:

1. Sean Kavanagh v Norwich City (H)

Good overlapping run, one touch to control and then a low, left-footed drive from 16 yards.

2. Cauley Woodrow v Rotherham Utd (A)

Neat passing move that began deep in Fulham's half

and ended with a curling shot from 16 yards into the top far corner.

3. Lasse Vigen Christensen v Huddersfield Town (H) Following a one-two with Rodallega, Christensen sublimely nutmegs a defender on the 18-yard line, then deftly dinks the ball over the advancing keeper from nine yards.

4. Ross McCormack v Huddersfield Town (H) Rasping, right-footed drive into the top far corner from 22 yards.

5. Hugo Rodallega v Brighton & H.A. (A)

Christensen dribbles past two defenders before pulling the ball back to Rodallega, who, from 15 yards, fires it right-footed high inside the near post.

6. Ross McCormack v Sheffield Wednesday (H)

A 22-yard, right-footed shot direct from a free-kick, slightly left of centre, that eludes the keeper at his near post.

7. Lasse Vigen Christensen v Sheffield Wednesday (H)

End to end stuff from Christensen who begins and ends a swift free-flowing counter-attack following a Wednesday corner. After a 50-yard burst, he exchanges passes with Rodallega and calmly strokes a right-footer inside the far corner from 15 yards.

8. Ross McCormack v Nottingham Forest (H)

Receiving a first-time pass from Rodallega on the edge of the Forest penalty area, McCormack strikes a crisp left-foot shot home from 19 yards.

9. Nikolay Bodurov v Derby County (H)

Instinctive right-footed prod on the volley from a tight angle, just outside the six-yard box, which creeps inside the far post.

10. Matt Smith v Wigan Athletic (H)



# SPORT

Thursday, May 28th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

## Victory parade

**T**HE press room was full of £155 Cristal Champagne, the glass flutes were all lined up and all that was needed was Jose Mourinho to acclaim his players for finishing the season in style and justifiably be acclaimed worthy Premier League winners.

Sunday's 3-1 win over a dour but energetic Sunderland was proof positive that, having come from behind to dispatch the North-East side so emphatically, the philosophy of Mourinho was alive and kicking and that next season his brilliant Blues will again be the team to beat.

"I am very happy," he said, sipping his top grade champers. "The game was good. They came for a result and did not want to lose. So when they scored first, we had to react and try something different."

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**  
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

"In the second half, we played at a slightly lower tempo than normal but our quality was good."

"The biggest emotion was when we won the title (at home against Crystal Palace way back on May 3) but the celebration was great too, when you and the players have the cup in our hands."

"It was five years without the league title, so it was about time it returned," he said.

### Team spirit

It was 37-year-old Didier Drogba's 381st and last game for the club, spanning two spells since his £24m arrival from Marseille in 2004. The Ivorian was substituted on 30 minutes and, in a moving moment that underlined the team spirit at Chelsea, he was carried off the pitch by the other players.

**"It was a privilege for the young players to know him and to train and play with him"**

**Jose Mourinho**



STAMFORD Bridge legend Didier Drogba has played his last game for Chelsea



## This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Mourinho explained: "The substitution was made because Drogba had a slight knee problem. Normally he would not have played at all. He played because it was his last game and he wanted to be on the pitch."

"We were going to take him off earlier but because he did not feel so bad we left it until the 30th minute."

"The fact he was made captain for the day was down to John Terry, his desire to give him the armband. The carry-off was decided by the players on the pitch – they like him a lot."

Drogba, who has won 12 trophies at Stamford Bridge, has announced he will leave SW6 for a second time.

"He was part of the 'other' team and now the new Chelsea. It was a privilege for the young players to know him, to train with and play with him. To share with him was fantastic for those young players. To learn from his good example," added Mourinho, who brought Drogba back to Chelsea on a free transfer last summer following the striker's spell in Turkey with Galatasaray.

He returned to Stamford Bridge to "make more history" and this season collected his fourth Premier League winner's medal and third League Cup medal.

Drogba leaves having netted 164 goals for Chelsea. He might well have signed off with another. On the penalty which levelled the score at 1-1, Mourinho

explained why Diego Costa took it.

"First of all Didier was the nominated taker but he was off the pitch. Eden Hazard was second but was not yet ready to take it, so Diego did. It was good for Diego to be back and score."

On Petr Cech, Mourinho echoed the fans' desire for the goalkeeper to stay.

"I want him to stay too," he said.

"I don't sing for it but he is a legend of this club and at just 32, he is a young legend."

"One of our strengths this season was to have the two best goalkeepers in the Premier League. When Thibaut (Courtois) was injured, Petr had decisive saves to make in matches. If he was not in those seven matches he played, I'm not sure we would have won the league."

"But we have to be fair and not emotional. We have to say that Thibaut is an amazing goalkeeper."

"I hope there are never talks between him and the board. He hasn't spoken to me, as he is a professional who focuses on the game, his work and job. In training and playing, he is focused on his contribution to me and the team."

"We had a season where both keepers were important. The reality is Petr played in all four competitions to feel important. He wants to play all the time."

"It's not a problem for me to have both here. But I am not in control of Petr's decision."

### Two generations

Returning to his personal haul of three Premier League titles, the Chelsea boss said: "I belong to two generations of successful sides. For me it was hard to see Ashley Cole, Frank Lampard, Michael Essien and Didier leave the club. But my job is Chelsea's future and we will carry on."

"It would be a dream to be here in 2025 but my future does not matter, only Chelsea's."

Mourinho is looking to the future, not the past.

"The first teams of mine were fantastic but this team has won one Capital One Cup and one Premier League title. They have to win more to be considered better than the other side. This is the challenge I set them."

"You can win something and that's it. Or you can win on a regular basis – that's the difference between someone who is a champion and someone who is a champion of champions. That's what I want for them."

Mourinho was slightly wistful when asked about the retirement from English football of Drogba, Frank Lampard (who scored in Manchester City's 2-0 win against Southampton) and Liverpool's Steven Gerrard, who all played what many expect to be their final game in England on Sunday.

"Today, the three left – wow! Three different clubs, three different players and three big players. Two of them my ideal players, one dear enemy (Gerrard)."

■ **VOTE FOR FULHAM'S GOAL OF THE SEASON** – page 27



CHELSEA POWER SHOW: Management, players and staff unite to celebrate another Blues Premier League trophy success Pics: Rob Newell/Digital South